

## Double blow for Kremlin in nationwide protests and Baltic poll

### Communists suffer defeat in Lithuania

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Communist Party yesterday sustained two heavy blows to its already battered authority.

Pre-election rallies nationwide assumed a sharply anti-Communist tone and first results of elections in the Baltic republic of Lithuania showed the breakaway Communist Party suffering a crushing defeat at the hands of nationalists.

The Lithuanian local government and supreme soviet elections were the first effectively multi-party elections to be held in the Soviet Union and showed candidates from the Lithuanian popular front movement, Sajudis, winning 72 out of the first 90 seats declared.

Sajudis campaigned on a programme which promised

to work for Lithuania's full independence and castigated the Communists for decades of incompetence and mismanagement. The Lithuanian party's bravado in splitting from the Soviet party last month proved insufficient defence against the nationalists and its electoral performance bodes ill for officially sponsored candidates contesting elections elsewhere in the country in coming weeks.

In Moscow yesterday, an estimated 200,000 people defied a crescendo of official

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warnings and ostentatious security to join a pre-election rally in which speeches and placards were predominantly directed against the Communists.

Speakers, many from Mr Boris Yeltsin's radical Inter-Regional Group of parliamentarians, were applauded when they attacked the party establishment and cheered at every call for a multi-party system and a genuinely free press.

The few speakers standing as Communist candidates in next Sunday's Russian Federation elections were greeted with silence or whistles of derision. Sajudis called for power to be returned to the people and round-table meetings between the party and democratic groups.

Police in riot gear stood at either end of the designated venue on the southern stretch of the Moscow inner-ring road, busloads of police and Interior Ministry troops waited on standby, and much of the city centre was cordoned off. The city authorities had banned the demonstrators from their preferred venue beside the Kremlin walls.

Pre-election rallies were also held yesterday in more than a dozen Soviet cities, including Minsk, the Belorussian capital, and President Gorbachev's home town of Stavropol in southern Russia.

In Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, more than 40,000 people converged on the central square in front of the government building to call for democracy and an independent Georgia.

Mass demonstrations also took place in the Urals cities of Sverdlovsk and Novosibirsk, and in Volgograd, where popular protest brought down the city's Communist leaders last month. All are

reported to have passed off without violence, despite apocalyptic warnings from the authorities about provocations by extremists.

In Leningrad, however, informal and democratic groups boycotted a planned rally when the city authorities insisted that it should take place at a sports stadium in the suburbs.

Those who tried to follow the original route through the city centre to the historic Palace Square were detained, giving substance to threats from the party and government leadership that they would crack down on all unsanctioned gatherings. In the city of Rostov-on-Don, in the south of the country, the organisers called off a planned rally because of the risk of violence.

In several other parts of the country, marches were banned and meetings permitted only in designated buildings.

The Central Asian republic of Tajikistan and Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, remain effectively under martial law after violence in the past two months, and in Uzbekistan, where elections were held last week under strict security, marches were banned following an outbreak of violence against the Moslem Turkic community.

Preliminary results in the Uzbek elections show Brezhnevite electoral traditions holding up well, with a majority of officially sponsored candidates winning seats. Many had no competition.

About a fifth of the constituencies must go to the polls again in six weeks' time, however, either because there was no decisive result or because the single candidate nominated failed to achieve the required number of votes.

Central Asia is likely to prove an exception, however. The comprehensive defeat for Lithuanian Communist Party candidates when competing against Sajudis suggests that officially sponsored candidates elsewhere may also do poorly.

The Lithuanian Communist Party won wide popular support in the republic for its declaration of independence from the Soviet party last December and expected to do well. Had its performance matched expectations, the Lithuanian party might have found Communist parties in other Soviet republics emulating its decision to break with the Soviet party in an attempt to retain power.



View from the top: Lieutenant-General Bagdanov, left, the Soviet deputy Interior Minister and Moscow police chief, surveying the pre-democracy rally.

### Bush and Kohl agree on German role in Nato

By Martin Fletcher, Washington, Susan Elliott, Camp David, and Philip Webster, London

President Bush and Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, emerged from 24 hours of intensive talks at a snowy Camp David yesterday to reaffirm that a united Germany should remain a full member of Nato.

The two leaders agreed at their pivotal private summit that US forces should remain stationed in a united Germany as a "guarantor of stability" but what is presently East Germany should have "a special military status" to take account of the Soviet Union's "legitimate security interests".

Asked at a joint press conference what would happen if the Soviet Union remained implacably opposed to a united Germany remaining in Nato, Mr Bush replied: "We will reason together and it will all work out." Herr Kohl did not believe there

would be broad support in either West Germany or a united Germany for neutralising the two men's accepted basic idea of a transitional period for Soviet troops to withdraw from East Germany.

Meanwhile, Mrs Thatcher emphasised her caution over the speed of German reunification, possibly through a treaty, of its western borders.

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ication in a 45-minute telephone conversation with Mr Bush as he waited at Camp David for Herr Kohl to arrive.

Downing Street confirmed that Mrs Thatcher had made the call to Mr Bush to bring him up to date with the views of political leaders from West Germany, France, Poland and Italy, whom she has seen in the last two weeks.

But it was also made plain that she again told him of her own view that there should be no rush to unification and that although it would eventually occur it must be done through the "four-plus-two" framework agreed at Ottawa.

She also emphasised her support for Poland's demand for an assurance of protection, possibly through a treaty, of its western borders.

Her lengthy call to Mr Bush was seen by politicians as further evidence of her determination to see that German reunification is carried through with proper regard for all the international implications, and for Britain to be consulted fully throughout the process. In an interview at the weekend in *The Sunday Times*, she said: "We were the first people even to be talking

### Storm warning of 90mph winds

By Geoff King and Jenny Knight

Severe gales were expected to sweep many regions today, threatening lives and causing serious structural damage.

The London Weather Centre issued a special alert last night warning that the winds might be as dangerous as those which left 48 dead and many injured last month.

Emergency services were on alert and commuters were warned to listen to weather bulletins. "People could be killed if they are not aware of the conditions. Trees are likely to be brought down and structural damage can be expected," a spokesman said.

Wind gusts of up to 90mph and heavy rain were expected to make roads hazardous in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Insurance companies were bracing themselves after the estimated £3 billion cost of last month's gale.

A man aged 38 and two boys aged 15, including his son, were rescued by a Royal Air Force helicopter after drifting for 24 hours in a 19ft open boat 21 miles north east of Whitby, North Yorkshire.

Mr Jack Gibson, his son, Derek, a friend, Timothy Phoenix, of Cleveland, were flown to Middlesbrough General Hospital suffering from

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mild exposure. A search for a man aged 31 and a boy aged 13, missing since their 21ft boat capsized last Thursday, continued. Lifeboats from Clacton and Walton-on-the-Naze scoured the Essex coast after the body of a second boy, aged 14, was found on Friday.

At Beesands, south Devon, 6,000 tonnes of rock were being rushed to the seaside village to save it from flooding.

### England rock the W. Indies

Allen Lamb had his sights on a maiden overseas century as England's unexpected success in the First Test against the West Indies continued at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, yesterday.

The new vice-captain made the most of a dropped catch to reach 100 on 87, and with Robin Smith (36 not out) giving strong support, England were handsomely placed at 223 for three by the interval, 59 runs ahead.

All nine of Lamb's test centuries have been made in England. As he walked off to generous applause from a capacity crowd of 12,000, the Northamptonshire batsman had already beaten his away best of 83 in Australia seven years ago. Lamb had struck 10 fours, and his fourth wicket partnership with Smith was worth 107.

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### Tories face serious time, says Baker

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is facing one of its most severe tests of nerve since Mrs Thatcher came to power 11 years ago as Labour celebrated a 17 per cent opinion poll lead amid evidence of growing public concern over the community charge.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative Party chairman, conceded yesterday that the party was facing a "very serious" moment.

However, a new offensive by the Prime Minister and her ministers to place responsibility for the Government's difficulties over the poll tax on local authorities suffered a setback when Mr Michael Heseltine intervened to suggest it should never have been introduced.

In an interview on TV-am he said: "I was always convinced that we should not proceed with the poll tax once we had looked at it in great

depth in the early 1980s. That judgement has stood the test of time."

Labour's 17-point lead, up from 12 per cent last month, was shown by a MORI opinion poll and is a severe blow to

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the Conservatives as they prepare for the important Mid Staffordshire by-election.

But the poll, involving interviews with almost 2,000 people between February 18 and 22, also showed that since November there has been a massive rise in public concern over the poll tax, with 32 per cent of people now identifying it as a key issue, against 12 per cent in November.

Labour's showing of 51 per cent beat its previous high of

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### Cabinet Office studies Ernie spy-pay claims

By Philip Webster and Michael Evans

A bizarre allegation that M15 has been using Premium Bond cheques, supposedly issued by Ernie, the electronic "lottery" machine run by National Savings, for paying freelance agents, is being examined by the Cabinet Office, it emerged yesterday.

The claims first came to light when a constituent of a senior Conservative backbencher approached his MP and alleged that Ernie did more than just select prize-winners each month. He said

Ernie's address at Lytham St Anne's, in Lancashire, was being used as a front by the Security Service. He claimed that when freelance operatives — often referred to as "cut-outs" because their undercover work cannot be traced back to M15 — were employed, their pay cheques came in the guise of a prize-winning, tax-free Premium Bond payment.

There was no suggestion that real Premium Bond prize money had been used. The

### Forbes, jester of US capitalist court, dies at 70



Mr Forbes: "The whole world will miss him."

From James Bone, New York

The abrupt end of the Roaring Eighties has been hard on America. Wall Street "wunderkind" now find themselves pacing the streets in search of work; the movers and shakers of yesterday — including Leona Helmsley, Manuel Noriega, Imelda Marcos and Adam Khashoggi — find themselves in jail or facing prosecution; and you cannot buy a Ferrari anywhere.

All this while the once mighty "evil empire" in the East opens its arms to embrace democracy and McDonalds, and Disneyland opens up in the EC.

But the fates have been unkind still. Over the weekend, the nation of chocolate-chip cookies and stretched

limousines lost the man who made American capitalism fun.

Malcolm Forbes, the ballooning, publishing, bridge-playing billionaire, publisher of the business magazine that bore his name and high-profile escort of

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Elizabeth Taylor, died of a heart attack at his estate in New Jersey. He was 70.

High-society figures, many of whom had attended his \$2 million (£1.17 million) birthday celebration in Morocco in August, mourned his death as a loss to capitalism.

"The whole world will miss Malcolm, who brought humanity to the capitalist system," said Mr Ampand Hammer, a veteran deal-maker. "He was the quint-

essential American — optimistic, buoyant and lots of fun," said Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State.

Forbes was born in Brooklyn on August 19, 1919, two years after his Scottish-emigrant father, the financial editor of a New York magazine owned by William Randolph Hearst, the press baron, had founded *Forbes* magazine.

After a medal-winning tour of duty with a heavy machine gun section of the US infantry in the Second World War, he joined the magazine as assistant to the publisher, and, in 1957, assumed control. *Forbes*' philosophy is best summed up by his letter to readers in the first issue of his newest brainchild, a magazine called *Egg*, which was published for the first time this month. "Egg people

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Teachers urged to back strike action

A new round of teacher strikes is likely after the National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers voted at the weekend to ballot its 118,000 members on a recommendation for industrial action.

Mr Fred Smithies, the union's general secretary, said yesterday that his members would be called on to support a one-day strike on April 4 to "put down a marker with parents in particular that the education system faces a series of grave problems".

Teachers have been winning popular support for their call for a substantial pay rise, particularly in the light of teacher shortages. He said that he did not fear a public backlash if classes were disrupted.

Mr Smithies said that the executive voted overwhelmingly for the strike ballot because the 7.3 per cent offer for 1990-91 was too low.

"Last year we got a rise which was under the rate of inflation at 6 per cent, this year inflation will probably be 8 per cent and we will get the second pay cut in two years." He said the shortage of teachers was becoming "catastrophic".

## Hostage inquiry arrest

A man was arrested yesterday after a gunman took an elderly woman hostage during a series of incidents in Greater Manchester earlier in the day. Police said a man was being interviewed after "incidents in the Whalley Range area". A gunman was alleged to have visited five houses in the area, firing at the ceiling of one house, holding an elderly woman hostage in her home for an hour, holding a man at gunpoint and hijacking a car.

## Power plant warning

Carbon dioxide emissions from Europe's power stations will increase by 54 per cent in the next 15 years in spite of the use of cleaner fuels, according to a report yesterday. Southern European countries will produce the largest increase in carbon dioxide, an important contributor to the "greenhouse effect", with a "significant rise" from Britain. The report, from the economic forecasters WEFA Energy, says there needs to be a dramatic shift in Europe's energy policy.

## School phobia advice

Children with a hatred of school might have "school phobia", according to a mother who is setting up a helpline to give advice on how children can continue their education outside schools. Mrs Pip Rupik will run the helpline from her home in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. She set up the Children's Home-based Education Association, which has 300 members, eight years ago when she decided her children should learn at home.

## Food safety 'delays'

The Government was accused yesterday of having a "highly irresponsible" attitude towards food safety and was urged to set up an independent Food Standards Agency (Jill Sherman writes). Dr David Clark, Labour spokesman on food and agriculture, published a list of "delays and disasters" where he claimed the Government had failed to protect food from contamination. He alleged slow responses to outbreaks of listeria, salmonella and the "mad cow" disease BSE.

## Ombudsman named

Mr Bob Edwards, a former editor of the *Daily Express*, the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, has been appointed "Ombudsman" (readers' representative) for *Today* newspaper. Mr Edwards, aged 64, said last night that Mr David Montgomery, the editor, had asked him to carry out the code of practice contained in the declaration of principles agreed by national newspapers last year. "He thinks it a good idea, and so do I," Mr Edwards said.

## Beaches closed as more poison found

By Michael Horsnell

Beaches were closed again yesterday after two more potassium cyanide containers were found on the Sussex coast and warnings were issued to people with metal detectors to be wary of finds washed up after recent storms.

Mr Malcolm Bruce, environment spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, tabled amendments to the Environmental Protection Bill on dangerous chemical transport. They would:

- Set up a register of incidents where chemicals are lost overboard in UK waters.
- Make it an offence if the ship's master did not notify any loss to the authorities.
- Make the owner or master of the ship responsible for the chemical retrieval costs.

Mr Bruce, MP for Gordon, said: "The sight of chemicals being washed up on the Sussex coast is all too familiar."

"It is vital we take action to bring to bear a sense of responsibility among masters of ships. We have to ask ourselves why all these chemicals have to be shipped halfway round the world at all."

The Department of Transport said the containers were washed overboard during heavy storms from the Fathulthair, a Qatar-registered freighter which picked up its cargo in Sheerness, Kent, and was now heading for the Middle East.

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## Rail workers head public-sector pay challenge

By Kevin Eason

The Government faces a stern test over public-sector pay only days after setting the ambulance wage claim, with tens of thousands of workers demanding double figure rises to combat rising mortgage payments and poll tax bills.

As ministers breathed a sigh of relief at the end of the six-month ambulance dispute, they faced 100,000 rail workers determined to win a settlement worth the cost of inflation and more in line with the 10.2 per cent agreement accepted by 32,000 manual workers at Ford.

Negotiations are still outstanding with leaders of 750,000 town hall workers, who are claiming basic rises of £1,500 a year, worth between 7 per cent and 15 per cent.

Also to come are negotiations for 76,000 power industry workers, who are claiming big rises, civil servants wanting the "going rate" - likely to be about 10 per cent - and BBC staff wanting 10 per cent plus a £500 one-off payment.

Union officials are confident of a return to work as thousands of ambulance officers start voting today on whether to end action that has crippled emergency services.

Indications are of wide acceptance of the agreement struck early on Friday with NHS executives for rises of between 19.6 per cent and 24.6 per cent, including allowances and lump-sum payments.

Pockets of resistance are expected in the most militant areas. Crews on Merseyside will go ahead with a

strike today, setting up their own emergency service to handle calls from the public.

In London, where 2,000 ambulance officers have been without pay since November, crews are expected to smother their union over the failure to win a guarantee for a pay review body. Resistance could also come from Glasgow, Leeds and Manchester, as well as Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

In addition to 2,000 in London, a further 7,000 crews are thought to

have lost wages of up to £4,000 since the dispute began. However, the NHS has calculated that the cost of providing police and Army cover could be more than offset by savings on wages of £29.5 million.

Meanwhile, talks in the next year may try to establish a framework within the present NHS Whitley Council negotiating structure for a pay mechanism. It is the lack of a pay review body which may prevent a full acceptance of the agreement, reached over 24 hours last week.

Staffs' Association said the Government should not manipulate British Rail managers from behind the scenes but should allow the rail board to negotiate.

Mr Richard Rosser, general secretary of the association, said: "We do not want a repeat of last year when BR tried to use railway staff as front line troops in defending an unfair, unrealistic and unofficial government pay norm for the public sec-

tor." British Rail said last week it faces its first financial deficit for five years because of the loss of £200 million in government subsidies.

The board is anxious to introduce sweeping productivity reforms to lower costs as revenue is threatened by a loss of customers scared off by fare rises. However, unions want to do away with overtime running at an average 13 hours a week as a way of bolstering basic pay levels of between £105 and £180 a week.

The claim submitted by the association, which represents white-collar staff, identifies the rise in mortgage rates as a main problem, while rail and Tube fares have gone up, along with big increases in gas, electricity and water charges, as well as poll tax payments which will increase household bills.

Average British Rail base rates fall £46 short of the national average for non-manual workers, the document says. At the same time, productivity rates increased by 8 per cent, according to British Rail figures.

## Government may face legal bar to poll tax 'cap'

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Any move by the Government to "cap" the poll tax levied by high-spending councils may be hampered by its own legislation.

The Government - battered by two adverse court decisions last week over its powers in education and social security - may not have the legal right to restrict the spending of most councils, according to papers being studied in the departments of the environment and education.

Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is likely to call for urgent talks with Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, over the legal hiatus, which has arisen from the operation of the Education Reform Act 1988, hailed as the Government's principal instrument for improving state schools.

It has just been realized that the Act effectively "freezes" a large portion of education spending by councils each year. Education is one of the largest items on council accounts.

Under the Act, education authorities - the London boroughs, the county councils and all the metropolitan districts - are obliged to allocate funds to schools in advance of the new financial year. Once allocations are agreed the law virtually prevents their repeal.

If Mr Patten tried to impose a poll tax cap, however, councils would have to revise all their budgets. Spending on schools accounts for over two-thirds of the total outlays of the counties and at least half the spending of metropolitan districts and London boroughs. If education budgets were declared untouchable, it is doubtful whether "capped" councils could make the savings likely to be demanded by Mr Patten.

A letter sent to the Department of Education by Mr Barry Capon, chief education officer of Norfolk, alerted officials to the size of the problem. Mr Capon pointed out that Tory-controlled Norfolk last week agreed its schools' budgets according to a formula which Mr MacGregor endorsed.

Mr Capon said: "When people started talking about the capping of local education

authorities, I suspect nobody thought about the practicalities of delegated budgets, let alone the principles."

Several local authorities, including the London Borough of Greenwich, have been briefing lawyers on the details of any poll tax-capping scheme. Labour-controlled Greenwich has an impressive record of court-room victories against environmental ministers deemed to have acted outside their legal powers in attempting to change councils' taxes and spending.

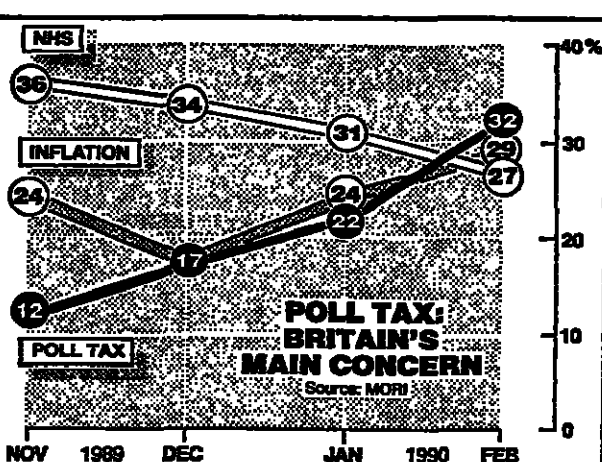
The Department of the Environment yesterday denied that its calculation of revenue support grant to local authorities favoured Conservative-controlled Westminster City Council. A spokeswoman said official grant figures might need to be revised, since they were based on population data constantly being updated, but Westminster was "in exactly the same boat as everyone else."

Controversy has attached to Westminster's grant from Whitehall to cover its contribution to flood control along the Thames, but the DoE is adamant that Westminster's money is based on the same formula as that which applied elsewhere.

A sharp rise in public anxiety about poll tax shows through the latest opinion poll. Asked what they considered the most important issue facing the nation, some 32 per cent of people answered local government finance; as recently as last November only 12 per cent mentioned it.

Concern about inflation is growing, too. It is mentioned by 29 per cent of the sample, compared with 24 per cent last November. Concern about the National Health Service has fallen.

The poll, conducted for Times Newspapers by Market and Opinion Research International (MORI), indicates significant anxiety about poll tax among younger people and - worrying for the Government - among residents in the electoral heartlands of the West Midlands. Some 36 per cent of young people identified poll tax as the most important issue facing the nation, compared with 30 per cent of people on retirement pensions.



## Tories seek united front in Europe and at home

By John Lewis  
Political Staff

Fifty Conservative MPs are forming "pairing" arrangements with their counterparts in the European Parliament in Strasbourg to give the party's European policy a sharper edge.

A group of 15 Conservative backbenchers met quietly this month to agree a strategy to bring closer together the thinking of MEPs, MPs and the Government itself. More than 50 backbenchers are supporting the move.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, is being asked to produce a "code of practice" for MPs in their co-operation with

MEPs. Some MEPs have been highly critical of the Government and some Conservative MPs for their failure to consult on issues of critical importance to the UK and where Strasbourg expertise could have helped considerably.

They have protested at their limited access to Westminster, though they have now been given passes and invited to backbench committee meetings.

The MEPs specifically blame lack of consultation for ministerial failure to understand the full implications of the Single European Act and the growing impact of the Community on the United Kingdom's domestic policies.

Mr Ian Taylor, the Conservative

MP for Esher, a former chairman of the Conservative European Affairs Group and now parliamentary private secretary to Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who called this month's meeting, denied that he was forming a "cabal".

"There is no secret plot here and no cabal. There are many people in the Commons who want to keep in touch with MEPs in a practical way. We are not a group of the left or right. We are not a group of Europeans who feel that action should be taken."

"We are concerned about how to influence particular amendments in the European Parliament and how best to keep in touch with MEPs on a regional basis. The MEPs themselves

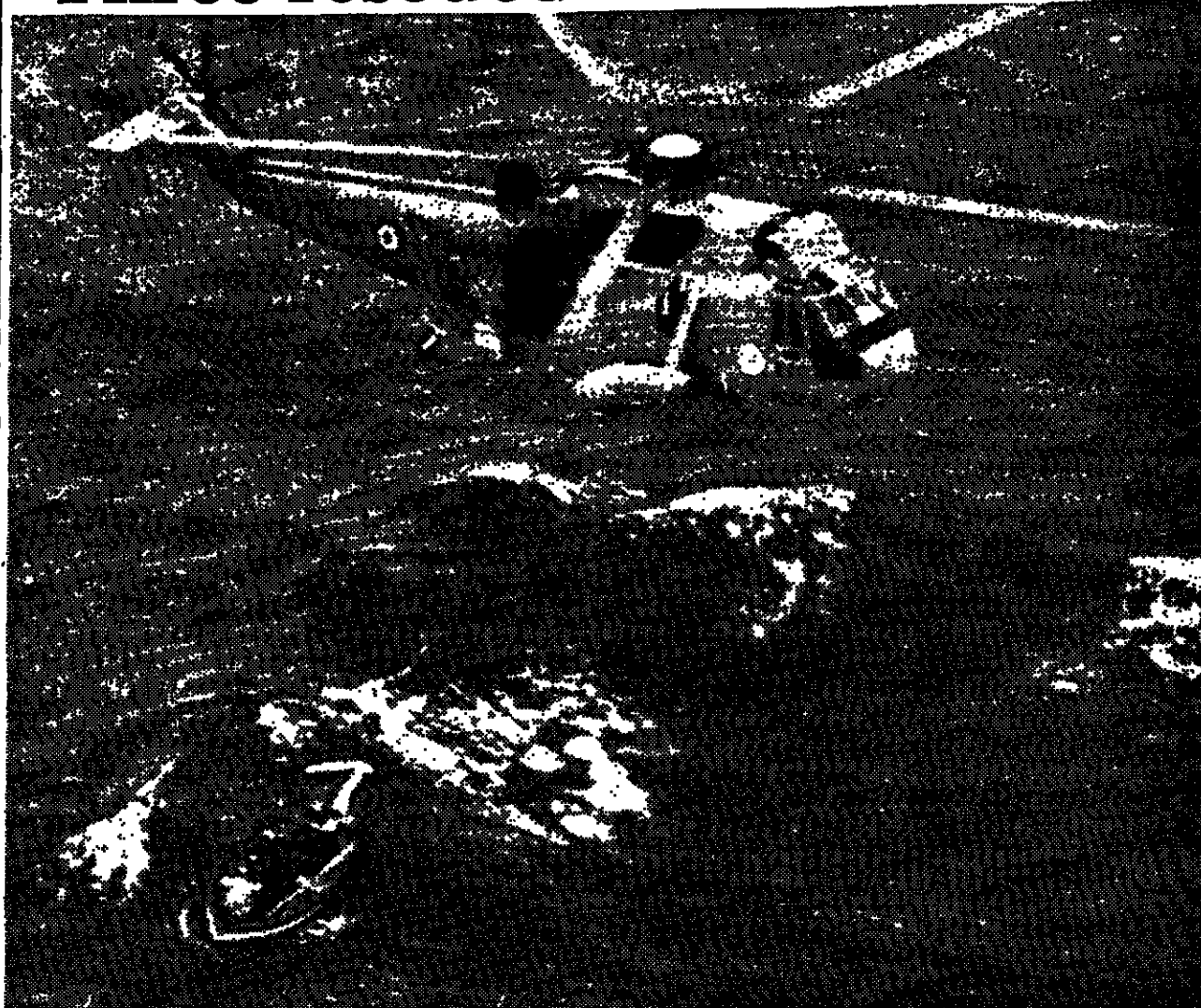
have to be far more in the mainstream of the thinking of the party than some of them have been up to now."

● The Prime Minister has quashed suggestions of early British entry into the European Community's exchange rate mechanism by making it plain that the prospect of German unification is an "added element" which will first have to be assessed.

It was made clear yesterday that the latest events in Eastern Europe and Britain's continuing high inflation rate has if anything hardened Mrs Thatcher's resolve against early entry.

Mrs Thatcher is said to believe that the implications of unification with its threat to the strength of the Deutschmark may reduce the usefulness of joining the ERM.

## Three rescued after sea ordeal



A helicopter prepares to winch aboard from a lifeboat a man and two teenage boys who were found safe and well after nearly 24 hours adrift in the North Sea in a 19ft open boat. The picture was taken from an RAF Nimrod involved in the rescue.

## Ministers back making of smaller cars

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

Ways of encouraging motorists to use smaller cars and manufacturers to make them are being studied by a Cabinet committee as the Government grapples with the problems of increased car use and the damage it causes.

Ministers are considering ways of persuading manufacturers to make fuel efficiency rather than optimum performance their highest priority in the battle to control carbon dioxide emissions, the main cause of the greenhouse effect.

Higher excise duties for larger cars, tougher tax treatment of big company cars and much higher taxes on petrol are all being looked at as ways of discouraging people from buying large cars. The Government may also consider regula-

tions requiring manufacturers to make more fuel-efficient cars.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, who is leading the discussions in the Cabinet committee, admitted yesterday that incentives to encourage people to use smaller cars were being considered.

Mr Parkinson, interviewed on the BBC television programme *This Week Next*, said that until recent years manufacturers had put the emphasis on fuel efficiency. Now that had changed to performance and manufacturers were much more interested in speed than in fuel consumption.

Hinting at encouragement for smaller engines, he said that a reduction of about 100cc in engine size would reduce emissions by about 3 per cent. Whitehall

insiders are expecting big increases in petrol duty - with the new customary concessions for lead-free petrol - to be included in the Budget next month.

Mr Parkinson was careful yesterday to avoid any speculation about the introduction of new green taxes. But he and his senior colleagues are fully aware of the danger to the Government of taking too drastic action to upset motorists, with two out of three households running at least one car.

He is therefore proposing a series of practical measures to meet the enthusiasm for action of Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Parkinson believes that better maintenance of cars, better tuning and better driving techniques can save fuel and reduce emissions.

## Health cutbacks

## Ward closures to save £1.1m

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A health authority faced with a financial crisis has agreed in principle to a £1.1 million package of ward closures to meet government underfunding next year.

Newcastle upon Tyne authority considered a series of recommendations on Friday involving bed closures at the three city hospitals: Newcastle General, Royal Victoria Infirmary and the Freeman.

The move came as health authorities tried to balance their books this year by "creative accounting" such as delaying payment of bills.

Proposed cutbacks will lead to soaring waiting lists, include three ward closures at Newcastle General, involving 48 general medicine, gynaecology and general surgery beds, to save £536,000.

At the Royal Victoria Hospital 58 beds would close

leading to £239,000 savings. At the Freeman 18 beds would close in the only dermatology ward, with a 30-bed urology ward to save £169,000.

There would be no guarantee that jobs would be found for nurses qualifying from the Newcastle College of Nursing. Mr Arthur Taylor, chairman of Newcastle health authority, said yesterday that the authority had reluctantly agreed to a 2 per cent reserve being created to set against potential shortfalls in funding for pay and prices. Part of that could come from cost improvement savings, but at least £1.1 million of it would come from service reductions.

While the Government had allowed for 5 per cent inflation in its allocations for 1990/91, Newcastle has calculated it at 7 per cent or more. The authority has a £3 million

accumulated underlying deficit from underfunding of pay awards in the past, excluded in the package agreed on Friday.

"These cuts will finally remove any semblance of a comprehensive health service," Mr Tony Flynn, chairman of Newcastle social services and a member of the authority, said. "We have been told that health service spending has increased yet our experience is one of a damaging cut after another severely affecting patient care."

● West Lambeth health authority in south London will discuss an £8 million package of cuts today. They could lead to 134 job losses, and closure of 73 beds and an operating theatre at St Thomas's. Results of a staff ballot on whether or not St Thomas's should become self-governing will also be announced.

## Crossword triumph for headmaster

By Philip Howard  
Literary Editor

Mr Michael Wareham, headmaster of New Town School, St Andrews, Fife, won the Scottish regional final of the Collins Dictionary's Times Crossword Championship in Glasgow yesterday.

Mr Wareham, aged 48, was the national champion in 1986. He completed yesterday's four puzzles without a mistake at an average of 8½ minutes a puzzle. The headmaster has now won the Scottish final five times.

A new contestant, Mr John Henderson, aged 26, came second, and qualified for the national final for the first time. He is a PhD student and lecturer in psychology from east London, and has compiled crosswords for *The Guardian* under the pseudonym of "Enigmatist", where he favours foul strings of chess all linked together.

He completed the puzzles without a fault at an average of 9¼ minutes each.

Mr Michael Macdonald-Cooper, aged 48, a freelance travel writer from Inchnure, Perthshire, came third; Mr Hugh Kilpatrick (57) a computer scientist with IBM at Edinburgh came fourth. He has come fourth in the national final.

By the Times crossworders:  
Across 1-23: 1. 10 letters, 2. 10 letters, 3. 10 letters, 4. 10 letters, 5. 10 letters, 6. 10 letters, 7. 10 letters, 8. 10 letters, 9. 10 letters, 10. 10 letters, 11. 10 letters, 12. 10 letters, 13. 10 letters, 14. 10 letters, 15. 10 letters, 16. 10 letters, 17. 10 letters, 18. 10 letters, 19. 10 letters, 20. 10 letters, 21. 10 letters, 22. 10 letters, 23. 10 letters.  
Down 1-23: 1. 10 letters, 2. 10 letters, 3. 10 letters, 4. 10 letters, 5. 10 letters, 6. 10 letters, 7. 10 letters, 8. 10 letters, 9. 10 letters, 10. 10 letters, 11. 10 letters, 12. 10 letters, 13. 10 letters, 14. 10 letters, 15. 10 letters, 16. 10 letters, 17. 10 letters, 18. 10 letters, 19. 10 letters, 20. 10 letters, 21. 10 letters, 22. 10 letters, 23. 10 letters.

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# Car groups' failure to make thief-proof vehicles attacked

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Car manufacturers were criticized by one of the biggest fleet buyers last night for not implementing security devices costing just a few pounds which could help prevent theft of new cars costing insurance companies and owners up to £750 million a year.

Hertz, the rental and leasing group, which buys 400,000 cars worldwide and 23,000 in Britain annually, demanded design improvements which the company said might cost as little as £10 a car.

Simple design changes could save motorists hundreds of pounds in protecting cars and could drastically cut the numbers of cars either stolen or broken into, Hertz said.

Mr Fredy Dellis, president of Hertz International, alleged that the manufacturers were the only beneficiaries of a situation in which they sold extra replacement parts and vehicles after theft and damage.

He said the cheapest method of improving car security was with the fitting on the production line of dead locks, which could not be opened without a key even if a window is broken to gain entry, hardened steel keyhole plates, flush locks and shields to protect latching arms and linkages. The cost a car would be less than £10, he claimed.

The criticism from the company, which has big buying power in Britain, Europe and the United States, will alert manufacturers to dissatisfaction over their security record.

It is also a clear condemnation from a company which runs one of the biggest fleets in Britain and which has long been a victim of car crime.

The attack from Hertz is the strongest yet on the industry's failure to deal with crime, even though car thefts and break-ins account for 27 per cent of offences notified to police, putting forces around Britain under big pressure.

Vehicle thefts are running at more than 400,000 a year, leading to insurance payouts of more than £200 million. However, motor manufacturers have done little to stem the tide of crime with Britain showing one of the worst records in Europe, Hertz said.

The company produced statistics to show that England and Wales has a rate of almost seven vehicle crimes per thousand head of population compared with one in West Germany, 2.5 in Spain and less than half of the British figure in Italy. Mr Dellis said: "Hertz is concerned that the simple steps needed to solve the rapidly growing problem of car theft have not been taken by many vehicle manufacturers."

"It is completely unacceptable that improvements in security have not been made when the answer lies quite literally at our fingertips."

Hertz etches the windows of its hire car fleet with vehicle registration numbers to help trace stolen cars. However, the cost is up to £30 a car. Disabling devices, such as mechanical locking devices, are just as expensive while car alarms cost up to £350 each.

Hertz said none of that would be necessary if car companies would only add security improvements during the manufacturing process. At a time when car companies were able to achieve technology improvements which allowed cars to travel at 150mph, with luxury features such as compact disc players together with anti-lock brakes and four-wheel-drive, Mr Dellis said car security was a small cost, which could be absorbed by manufacturers.

As a big customer, Hertz expected the manufacturers to end what was no longer an "acceptable situation" and take proper remedial action.

Manufacturers such as Ford and Vauxhall have been addressing the issue of security by adding special dead locks to their cars over the past two years.

However, that is thought to be a small part of the problem facing the big fleet operators who stand to lose millions of pounds through vehicle theft.

Mr Dellis said: "For little effort and cost, we could virtually eliminate this crime."

● The Association of Fleet Car Operators warned of a big rise in inflation if the Chancellor of the Exchequer increases taxation on company car users in the Budget.

Mr Major was told that employees hit hard by fresh taxation increases would only demand pay rises or extra benefits to cover their losses. Instead, he should implement a fairer system of company car taxation to help users who cover a big number of business miles annually, the association said. "The present system is simply not up to present market conditions," it said.

# Fund-raisers' high hopes and low notes



Some of the 30 young performers who appeared at a double bass concert at the Festival Hall, London, yesterday, to raise funds for a new music scholarship.

# RSPCA releases disputed circus study

By Jamie Dettmer

A year-long dispute over the funding, copyright and scientific conclusions of a report into the treatment of circus animals could spill into the courts after the RSPCA released several hundred copies of the work yesterday without the permission of the author.

Dr Marthe Kiley-Worthington, who was commissioned by the charity to write the 140-page report, said yesterday that she is consulting lawyers to see if she

can sue the RSPCA for breach of copyright. "I have not given the RSPCA permission to publish or release the report," she said.

The RSPCA has made no editorial changes to the report but has added an extra introduction claiming that it contains evidence of suffering.

Dr Kiley-Worthington, a visiting fellow at Edinburgh University and a freelance consultant in animal behaviour, has been in conflict with the RSPCA after she concluded that there is

little evidence of cruelty to animals in circuses and that there are no grounds for banning them.

That runs counter to official RSPCA policy calling for a ban on the use of animals for public entertainment which, it claims, causes animals undue distress as well as being morally objectionable.

The RSPCA said yesterday the author's failure to publish "had led to damaging and ill-informed interpretations". Publication would allow balanced debate.

## PORTFOLIO

Mr Michael Hellman, a retired book-keeper, of Mortimer Place, Kilburn, north London, is the latest winner of the Times Portfolio Platinum weekly prize of £4,000.

He plans to have a holiday, make a donation to charity and put some money aside for his poll tax. "My 67th birthday is on Tuesday, so this is a double celebration," he said. "I once won a shilling on the pools and £25 on the premium bonds, but this win is tremendous."

# Concorde flight to see eclipse

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British and Russian scientists hope to get their best view ever of a total eclipse of the Sun by filming the phenomenon from Concorde as it flies above the Soviet Union.

The eclipse on July 22 is expected to produce some spectacular solar flares and enable scientists to learn more about the enormous power generated by the Sun.

A new organization called Eclipse 90 has chartered one Concorde, and may charter a second, from British Airways to "chase" the Moon's shadow as it crosses the northern Soviet Union. It will carry scientists and film cameras so the solar flares can be studied for much longer than normal. The details are still being worked out.

It is hoped that the huge cost of the project can be offset by selling rights to television companies so that live pictures can be beamed around the world. The eclipse coincides with peak viewing time in the United States, but if Britain gets pictures, viewers will have to stay up until 3am to see them.

The Soviet authorities have given permission for the two Concordes to fly across one of the world's most sensitive military regions to view the eclipse. This is not the first time Concorde has been used in this way, but the July eclipse promises to be particularly breathtaking.

"Solar activity will be at a 400-year height by the summer so we could see spectacular solar flares during the eclipse," Mr John Baxter, of the Eclipse 90 Project, said.

# Peers to debate Rothschild offer

By John Shaw

Mr Jacob Rothschild's £7.6 million package to save the Canova sculpture "The Three Graces" from export to the Getty Museum in California will be raised in the House of Lords today.

Lord St John of Fawley, a former Conservative Arts Minister, will ask the Government to clarify the position.

It is expected his question will initiate a mini debate on the controversial art export application.

It may not, however, give an answer to the central question: Who really owns the statue? Ownership is shrouded in a merry-go-round of companies in the Cayman Islands.

The marble statue was sold to Fine Art Investment and Display Ltd in the early 1980s. But the identity of its shareholders is a mystery. The company is believed to be owned by Transocean Bank and Trust, but heritage lobbyists believe that may be merely a nominee company owned by someone else. All inquiries are referred to a non-committal

lawyer in Switzerland. The sculpture of three dancing maidens was commissioned by the 6th Duke of Bedford for Woburn Abbey in 1817, but ownership passed through the Cayman Islands to the Getty Museum before the Government issued a temporary order banning its export, which expires on March 12.

Meanwhile, the feasibility of Mr Rothschild's plan will be discussed by Mr Richard Luce, Arts Minister, in talks with Treasury officials.

Public appeals have raised only £333,000, the bulk of which has come from the National Art Collections Fund (NACF). Mr Rothschild then announced he would buy the sculpture for £7.6 million and offer it to the nation in lieu of the same amount of tax, payable on an inheritance from his cousin.

Yesterday, his offer was welcomed unreservedly by Sir Peter Wakefield, chairman of the NACF, Lord Charteris, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Sir Hugh Leggett, secretary of Heritage in Danger, and Mr Marcus Binney, of Save Britain's Heritage.

Sir Hugh Leggett said: "It represents a great saving to the charities and there is no need for public funds to be expended. This is a highly imaginative use of the 'in-lieu' system."

Save Britain's Heritage has meanwhile obtained permission for a High Court review of the decision by Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, not to take action to enforce the sculpture's return to Woburn Abbey.



Lord St John: To initiate debate on "Three Graces"

## Women at work

# Pregnancy costs firms dear

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The "constant haemorrhage" of skilled women leaving employment to have children and then not returning because of a shortage of crèches is costing big organizations such as the Midland Bank millions of pounds a year.

Mrs Maureen Loffill, senior project manager of the bank's innovative nurseries project, said the Midland estimated that it lost £14 million a year because senior female staff failed to return.

"It is a costly exercise to provide high-quality childcare but it is also a very costly exercise to waste your female resources. Most companies waste them shamefully," Mrs Loffill says in an interview with *School's Out* magazine published today.

Sixty per cent of the Midland Bank's employees are women, of whom 70 per cent take maternity leave and do not return. They will have

cost the company thousands of pounds in training. "Research shows that a huge chunk of that 70 per cent, something like 50 per cent, would actually choose to come back if we help them with their child care," she said.

Mrs Loffill has been trying to persuade her regional managers to set up child care facilities with a subsidy from the bank by persuading them that childcare is not "a gynaecological problem".

She called on the Government to end taxation of subsidized crèches as a fringe benefit.

● The conflict between women returning to work and the growing number of frail elderly people will lead to a widening "care chasm", a report from the Family Policy Studies Centre says today (Jill Sherman writes).

By 2001 there will be more than a million people aged at least 85, double the number in

1981, the report says. Already stretched community care services will become even more hard-pressed because the fall in 16 to 24-year-olds will put pressure on women to return to work.

Government plans for community care, with the emphasis on moving people out of residential accommodation, assume that families would take on an even greater share of caring. Yet more women in the caring age groups will be doing full-time jobs, the report says.

Community Care and Elderly People Policy Practice and Research Review (Family Policy Studies Centre, 231 Baker Street, London NW1 6XE, £5.45).

● Thousands of 16 and 17-year-olds risk being exploited by employers after the Government's relaxation of restrictions on night-time work comes into effect today, the youth employment organization Youthaid said.



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**FACTS ABOUT YOUR CAR(S)**

	CAR 1	CAR 2
Exact Make & Model (include GT/LE etc.)		
Engine capacity		
Year of Manufacture		
Registration Number		
Estimated mileage for next 12 months		
Previous motorist rating		

**FACTS ABOUT YOUR PRESENT INSURANCE**

My present policy expires on: \_\_\_\_\_ For Car 2: \_\_\_\_\_

At my last renewal, my No Claims Discount was: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10

My present insurer is: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO WILL BE THE DRIVER(S) OF EACH CAR?**

Name	Date of Birth	No. yrs. full UK Licence	Occupation
CAR 1 Principal Driver			
Secondary Driver			
CAR 2 Principal Driver			
Secondary Driver			

**MORE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR CAR:**

1. Do you require cover for any driver other than those named?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Journeys to and from work by you or any of the named drivers for more than 2 days per week?	Car 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Car 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Car 3 <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you have the vehicle rate of a company car?	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Any previous insurance cancellations? (please give precise dates)	Car 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Car 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Car 3 <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Have you been released under insurance at any time?	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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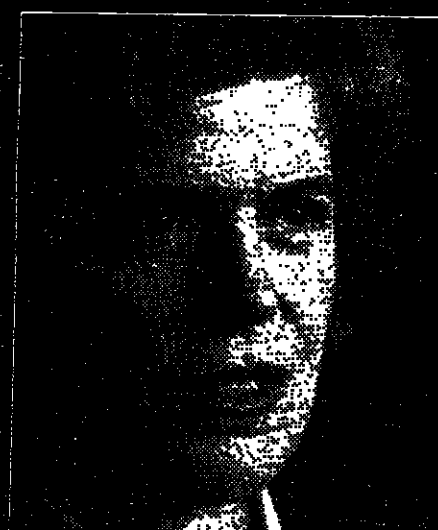
**SENSIBLE PREMIUMS FOR SENSIBLE DRIVERS**

'We know for certain that HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, can be spread by sexual intercourse from man to man, man to woman and from woman to man. It is also spread by sharing infected needles and syringes during drug abuse.'



SIR DONALD ACHESON  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

'People can have the virus for up to ten years without knowing it and during that time they can pass it on through sexual intercourse to others.'



PROFESSOR CATHERINE REDMAN  
PROFESSOR OF  
PAEDIATRIC EPIDEMIOLOGY  
INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH, LONDON

'I have a patient who is an 18 year old student and she became infected through sexual intercourse with her one and only boyfriend.'



PROFESSOR MICHAEL ADLER  
PROFESSOR OF  
GENITOURINARY MEDICINE  
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, LONDON

The experts all agree that the spread of HIV will continue unless people take action to protect themselves and those they love. Casual sex can be risky. Reducing the number of sexual partners and using condoms lessens the risk of infection. Injecting drug users should never share needles and syringes.

For further information and confidential advice about AIDS, Freephone the 24-hour National AIDS Helpline on 0800 567 123.



# Atlan deal I politic disagre

Plans to build a new airport at Gatwick, Surrey, have been rejected by the House of Commons. The decision, which was a surprise, came after a long debate on the merits of the project. The government had argued that the airport was needed to meet the growing demand for air travel, but critics claimed that it would be too expensive and would cause significant environmental damage. The vote was 241 to 197 in favour of rejecting the plans.

## Solicitors hit over conveyancing

By Frances Gifford, Legal Correspondent  
Solicitors have been hit by a new wave of criticism over their handling of conveyancing. A report from the Law Society has found that many solicitors are failing to provide adequate advice to their clients, particularly in the area of property law. The report also found that there is a significant gap between the theoretical knowledge of solicitors and their practical skills. This has led to a number of cases where clients have been misled or misled, resulting in financial loss. The Law Society is now calling for a new system of regulation for solicitors to ensure that they are providing the highest quality of service to their clients.

## Compensation

The government has announced a new scheme for compensating victims of crime. The scheme will provide financial support to victims who have suffered physical or psychological harm as a result of a crime. The amount of compensation will depend on the severity of the harm and the circumstances of the case. The scheme is intended to help victims cope with the aftermath of a crime and to encourage them to report crimes to the police.

## Energy

The government has announced a new strategy for the energy sector. The strategy aims to increase the production of renewable energy and to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels. It also aims to improve the efficiency of energy use in homes and businesses. The government is planning to introduce a range of measures to achieve these aims, including tax incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

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## Atlantic air deal hit by politicians' disagreement

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Plans to boost the number of trans-Atlantic air services and turn Manchester into an important British "gateway" airport have been thrown into disarray after a misunderstanding between Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, and his American opposite number, Mr Sam Skinner.

Months of negotiations between British and American officials on the number of trans-Atlantic routes which could be flown by each country's airlines, appeared to have been settled in Washington last month after the two politicians had a series of private meetings.

Mr Parkinson claimed that under the agreement three American carriers would be able to fly to Manchester while Virgin Atlantic would be given rights to operate to Boston, and British Airways would have been allowed to link its Canadian services to others in the United States.

Mr Skinner even set a tentative date — March 14 — for a visit to London where he would sign the agreement, for which Manchester airport has been pressing for years.

When Mr Parkinson wrote formally to Mr Skinner outlining the deal as he saw it, however, Mr Skinner claimed he had agreed to no such thing.

As a result, the talks are virtually back to square one and the chances of a final agreement being signed within the next few weeks are slim.

Yesterday, Mr David Marshall, chairman of the Commons select committee on transport, said that he planned to set down questions for both oral and written answer about the progress of the bilateral talks.

"We have been concerned for some time that Mr Parkinson may sell out British interests to get a deal," he said.

"There is no doubt that British officials were pressing hard for a deal which would have given British airlines the right to pick up passengers in the United States in the same way that the American carriers can fly within Europe. We will want to question Mr Parkinson and ensure that he stands up for Britain."

Talks between officials had

been going on for months but had constantly broken down because, according to the British side, the Americans were unwilling to allow access to their internal network to British airlines.

The Americans, meanwhile, insisted that they should be given the right to fly to Manchester and fly more services in the main London airports.

After several abortive attempts at a compromise, Mr Parkinson last month flew to Washington and took control of the negotiations. Unusually, he insisted that most of the accompanying team from the Department of Transport were not present at the last meeting, at the end of which he and Mr Skinner exchanged a "handshake" agreement.

The fine detail of the plan was to have been sorted out by officials, but when the fundamentals of the deal were sent to Washington, Mr Skinner denied making the agreement and suggested that Mr Parkinson had misunderstood him.

He claims he did not agree that British Airways could fly to American cities, having first picked up passengers in Canada, and that he wanted far more rights for American carriers to operate to London as well as to Manchester.

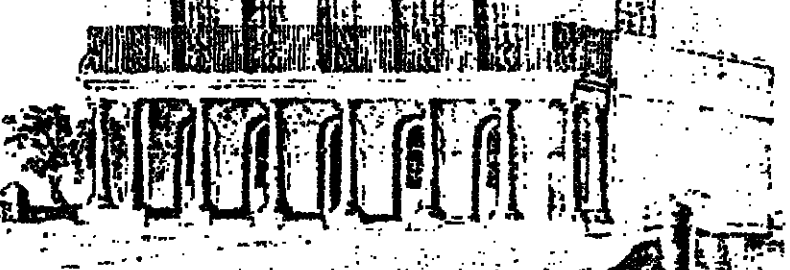
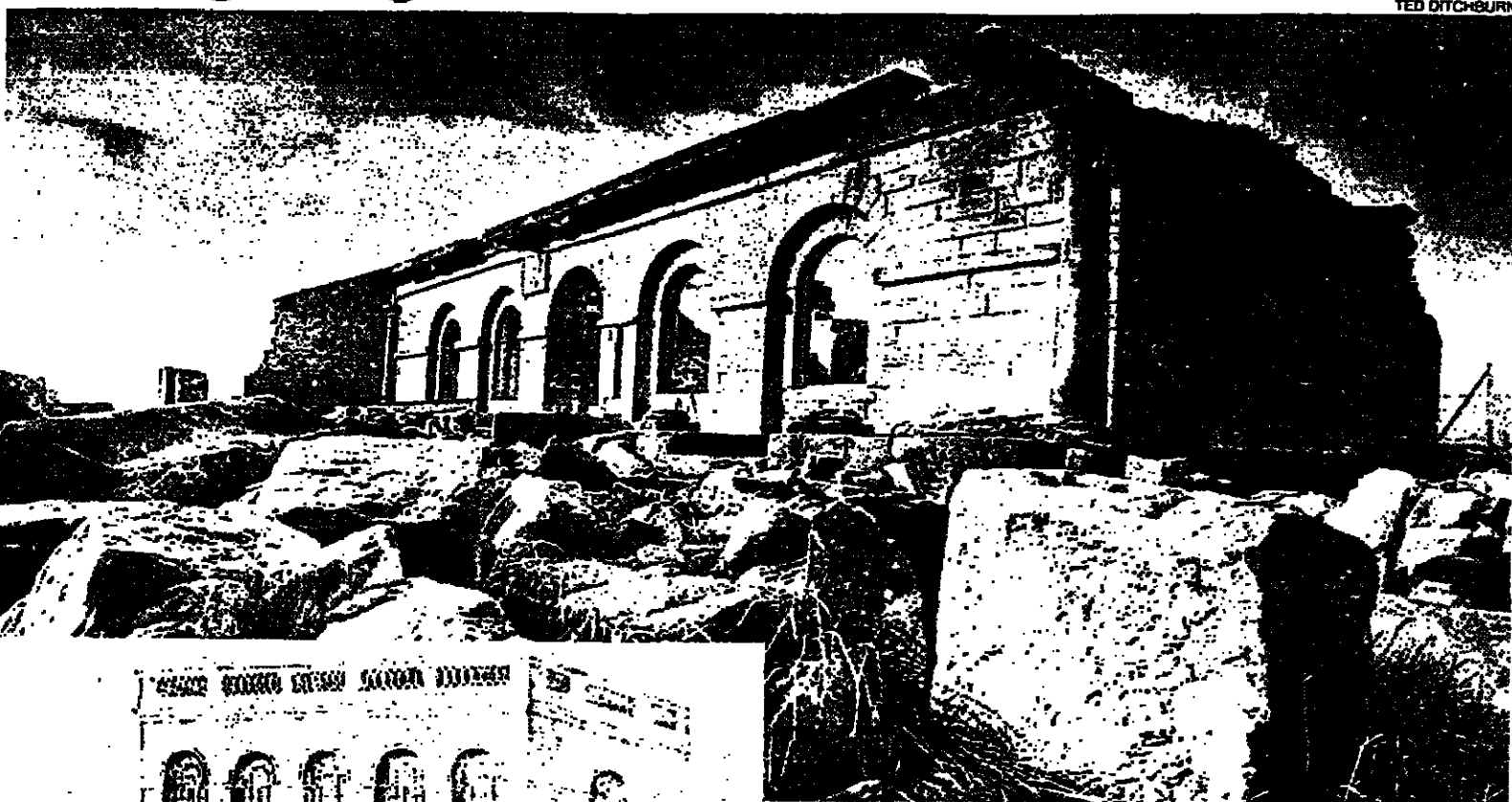
Now the deal, as seen by Mr Parkinson, which would have enabled Northwest Airlines to fly to Boston, Delta to operate to Atlanta from Manchester, and for the existing "unofficial" operation of American Airlines between Chicago and Manchester to be confirmed, has been thrown back into the melting pot.

Neither British airlines nor the British negotiators who had been arguing for greater access to the US market were keen on the Parkinson compromise because, they said, it still allowed far more American flights into Britain while winning little in return.

Officially, the Department of Transport remains optimistic that a deal will finally be struck. The Department of Transportation in Washington refused to comment except to say that the proposed visit by Mr Skinner was "still under discussion".

## Georgian grandstand ruin to be restored

TED DITCHBURN



The last surviving Georgian grandstand in Britain at the old racecourse at Richmond, North Yorkshire, which is to be restored from its present ruined condition (above) to its original two-storey form (left) in a rescue package involving English Heritage and the Bristol-based Vivat Trust.

The grandstand, built by public subscription for £1,200 in 1775, was probably designed by John Carr, of

York, who built similar stands at York and Doncaster. It was used as an observation post in the last war.

The last races at the course were run in August 1981. Its galleys are still used by the trainer Mr J.W. Watts.

The former Richmond Corporation sold the land from its flat roof in the late 1940s. The first storey was demolished in the 1960s. Stones left on the site will be used in the reconstruction.

## Car maker echoes call to boycott BR service

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Executives and managers at Lotus, the specialist sports car maker, have been told not to use the train for business travel because delays and cancellations were causing missed appointments.

The company disclosed yesterday that employees had been told to use their company cars or take budget air flights rather than use British Rail.

Mr Mike Kimberley, managing director, made the ruling after executives were late for or missed appointments because of the poor train service from Norwich.

The National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses has also issued a call to its members to boycott BR because of the poor service.

In the Federation's magazine *First Voice*, Mr David Mitchell, editor, said: "Quality and reliability, the cornerstones of our business life, are unknown to those who run the rail network."

It urged businesses to switch to private delivery firms, cars and buses.

BR chiefs have said they are about to go into the red for the first time in five years as the Government cuts subsidies, causing fares to rise an average nine per cent this year.

## Solicitors hit back over conveyancing

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

The most ambitious marketing campaign ever undertaken by a profession will be unveiled this week when the Law Society of England and Wales announces plans to promote 60,000 solicitors in the conveyancing market.

The £250,000 campaign, to be officially launched on March 21, will involve the marketing of new conveyancing procedures, called the National Conveyancing Protocol. These are being adopted by solicitors in the face of the threat in the conveyancing field from the big lending institutions.

Every kind of publicity medium is being used in the campaign, devised by the Law Society with Ogilvy and Mather acting as PR consultants. As well as regional and national newspapers, the campaign will be promoted on radio, in cinemas, in post offices and may involve a national television advertisement — the society's first.

Miss Sue Stapley said: "The protocol will give solicitors the edge when the financial institutions come into the conveyancing market under

the Government's legal reforms."

The Conveyancing Protocol has been promoted intensively in the past few months among the profession, with regional meetings attended by some 15,000 solicitors.

The main features of the protocol are the use of standard forms of contracts; a requirement that the search be made by the seller's solicitor at the seller's cost; and a new search validation scheme providing an indemnity for cases where there are problems arising over the period from the date of the search result until the date contracts are exchanged.

● The Court of Appeal is expected to hear a case this week which will test whether a child, aged six, is too young to give evidence. The case would set an important precedent in prosecutions of child abuse.

Lawyers for a man sentenced in September by the Central Criminal Court to eight years' jail for incest will ask the court to quash the conviction on the grounds that his daughter should have been ruled too young to testify.

## Compensation call

The Government should carry out a complete overhaul of the system of compensation for victims of medical accidents, the Labour Party says today (Jill Sherman writes). Miss Harriet Harman, the shadow health minister, will try to insert a clause in the Government's NHS Bill giving victims an automatic right to compensation. The clause, which mirrors no-fault compensation schemes in countries such as New Zealand, will be debated in committee tomorrow.

### Book ban plea

Scotland Yard has urged Bloomsbury Press not to publish *The Cocaine Kids*, a book about New York drug dealers which explains how "crack" is made.

### Global greens

At least 100 million people are expected to be involved in the largest ever environmental event, Earth Day 1990, to be held on April 22 in 121 countries.

### Fur fight

Twenty-seven people were arrested during a protest at a fur shop in Birmingham in which two coats worth a total of £2,000 were destroyed.

### Energy centre

A £10 million national centre to promote the efficient use of energy is to be set up in Milton Keynes.

### Rail shares

The North York Moors Railway, which claims to be Britain's most successful private line, is planning to issue shares to help finance improvements.

### Bond winners

The winning National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw numbers are: £100,000, 9MK 593312 (Exeter); £50,000, 5CB 234578 (Westminster); £25,000, 18YS 889899 (Surrey).

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# Bogus spouse rackets found

Seven London-based ethnic minority welfare agencies and six immigration advisers — two of them lawyers and one a justice of the peace — are helping to organize bogus marriages for immigration officers, a year-long inquiry by immigration officers has discovered.

One agency was until recently located less than a mile from the Immigration Service's main central London offices at Isis House in south London.

Senior immigration officers believe that the investigation, codenamed Operation Goldring, has only scratched the surface of a lucrative trade which could be allowing several thousand immigration offenders a year to trick the Home Office into granting them residence rights.

The trade involves offenders paying up to £2,000 to marry British citizens, who are usually already married. Some of the British citizens who have been paid to go through marriages of convenience are female prostitutes or unemployed men. In one case, a prison officer at Brixton jail, south London, was found to have acted as a spouse in a sham marriage.

The trade also involves immigration offenders paying to "marry" people who have taken on the identities of British citizens by obtaining copies of birth certificates. In several cases, Immigration Officers have had to tell British citizens their names have been used as spouses in marriage ceremonies.

Operation Goldring's existence became known last year after two widely publicized trials in London and Manchester. In one it was revealed that a British woman had "married" 30 different west African men. The inquiry was ordered after registrars in several towns reported the same brides, bridegrooms and



A year-long inquiry found widespread immigration fraud, Jamie Dettmer writes.

witnesses appearing at different weddings, sometimes in the same week.

While the Manchester and London cases were widely reported, the scale of the sham marriage abuse is only just coming to light. According to the confidential Operation Goldring report, a copy of which is in *The Times*, 1,600 Ghanaians and Nigerians in 1988 alone were allowed to stay on the basis of sham marriages. A further 800 Ghanaians and Nigerians who married in 1988 have either had their stay in Britain extended on the basis of suspected bogus marriages or are applying for an extension.

Another 2,635 West Africans probably went through bogus marriages but have not applied for leave to remain. "The logic behind not applying to benefit from the fraud appears to be that some West African offenders will only use the marriage as a 'long stop' to prevent removal from Britain if apprehended," the report says.

Altogether "potentially 5,000 marriages worth of

investigation may have taken place in 1988 between West Africans and British citizens".

Although Operation Goldring concentrated on dubious weddings involving west African nationals, immigration officers are convinced the abuse is widespread among many other nationalities.

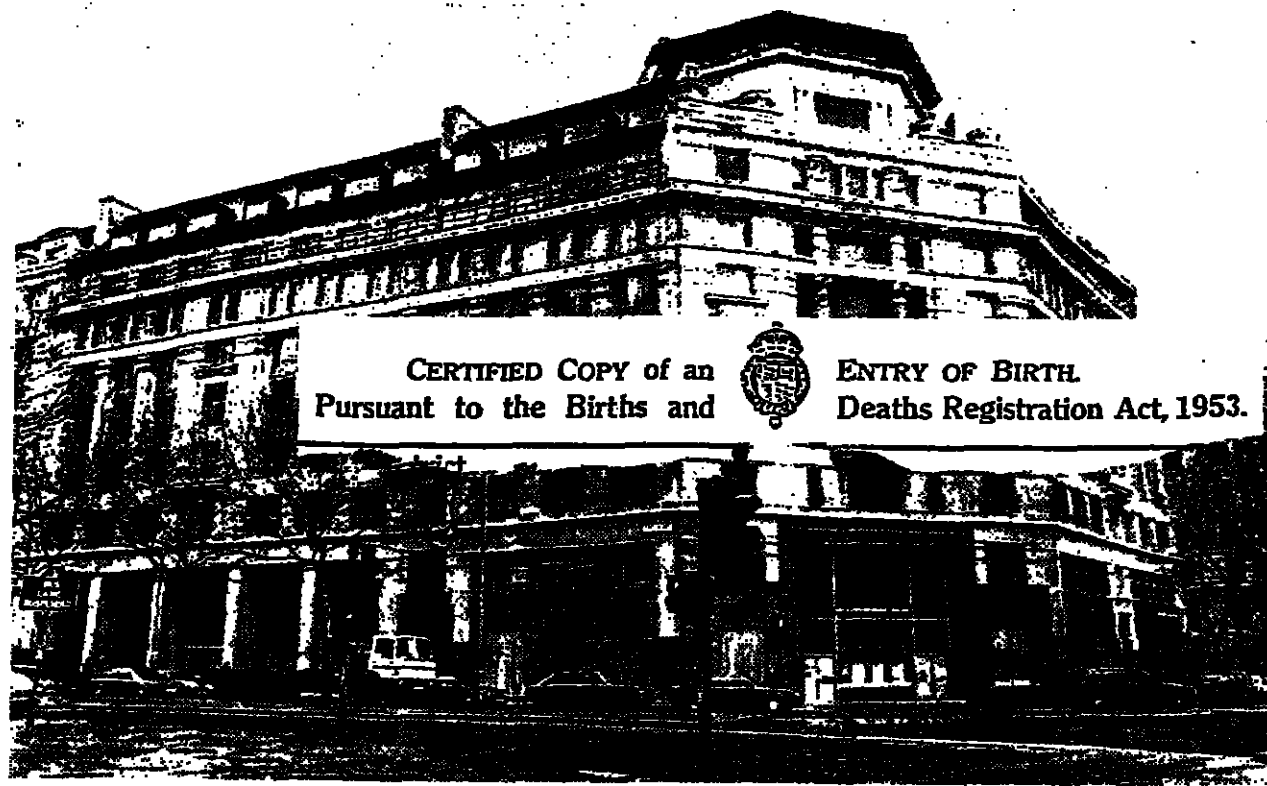
According to the Goldring report, dozens of "isolated" rackets are being investigated by police. The report speaks of investigations in Walthamstow, Leyton, East Ham, Acton and Mitcham in London and in Birmingham and Birkenhead.

The 40-page report is peppered with complaints about the lack of resources available to cope with the abuse.

It says fewer than 4 per cent of applications from Ghanaians and Nigerians seeking permission to remain or settle in Britain on the basis of marriage are refused, despite the likelihood that at least 50 per cent of the applications are linked with sham weddings.

"The reluctance of Immigration Service enforcement staff to take on marriage enquiries due to other commitments and resource constraints, no doubt contributed to the upsurge in this type of abuse."

Immigration officers found also discovered the existence of blank Ghanaian divorce certificates were circulating in London. "The applicants frequently state to the Immigration Officer upon arrival that they are married in their country of origin to demonstrate their incentive to return home. They subsequently marry British citizens and quickly provide divorce documents purportedly from Ghana. We formed the impression that these documents had either been stolen and sent from Ghana, or were complete forgeries manufactured in the United Kingdom."



The Central Register of Births and Deaths at St Catherine's House, from where the birth certificate copies are obtained.

## Teams collect certificate copies

By Jamie Dettmer

One of the most disturbing aspects of Operation Goldring is the light it casts on the ease with which people can obtain copies of birth certificates and use them to "marry off" British citizens to immigration offenders.

On almost any weekday, teams of West Africans and Asians can be seen applying for dozens of birth certificate copies at the Central Register of Births and Deaths at St Catherine's House in London. Some copies, costing £5 each, are destined for sham marriage rackets, others to provide an immigration offender with a new "official" identity.

Many offenders use the copies to apply for credit cards, national insurance numbers and even passports.

"It is possible that anybody could one day discover that not only are they in debt for several thousand pounds, but also that they are married to an immigration offender about whom they know nothing," the Operation Goldring report says.

"We have encountered a number of cases where we have had to inform British citizens, some of whom are

already married, that they have a West African 'spouse'. Quite naturally, these people are deeply disturbed."

The report cites the case of a young British woman who had to be informed by the Immigration Service that she "married" a Mr Primpong, a West African student.

"Whilst in the process of pursuing an appeal against a refusal to extend his stay as a student, Mr Primpong lodged an application to remain on the basis of marriage to a Miss Collins. After a considerable amount of detective work the real Miss Collins was located. She was horrified to discover that she was now married to Mr Primpong, given that she had never met this man."

The report adds: "Even more disturbing were her parents, who lived nearby and whom we had contacted in order to lead us to Miss Collins in the first place. Her father suggested that he might take the matter up with his MP and was outraged that his daughter's identity could be abused in this way."

In another case, man who had worked for British Nuclear Fuels in Blackpool was told that he had "officially" married a West African woman he had not met. "Miss Ashiety claimed to be living

with her British husband but home visits always resulted in him being 'out'. Police attempts to trace the husband, Paul Hickson, failed but we eventually tracked him down. He works in Blackpool and has never been to London; his identity had been fraudulently used. As a result of our evidence Miss Ashiety made a supervised departure to Ghana, following service of a notice of intention to deport."

Birth certificate abuse has always been available for the unscrupulous. It was described in 1971 by Frederick Forsyth in his thriller, *The Day of the Jackal*. However, officials at St Catherine's suspect there has been a big increase in the fraudulent use of certificates in recent years and that at least 4,000 copies a year are being used by immigration rackets.

Last December, the Government published a Green Paper recommending ways of tightening up on birth certificate abuses. It argued that applicants for copies should have to say why they want one — or several — and to provide various proofs of identity.

However, two weeks ago in a White Paper, ministers recommended that the system should not be changed.

## 'Classes' to help frauds

The Operation Goldring report makes clear that it would be hard to prove in court that any suspect species of advisers arranged bogus marriages.

It notes the only way to secure evidence would be to ask the police to search offices for documentary evidence. But "many documents held by such agencies are arguably subject to legal privilege". However, Immigration Officers found some documents casting light on the role of one suspect agency.

The documents, detailing the questions likely to be asked by Home Office interviewers, were found hidden in an illegal immigrant's flat. The woman gave a false address to the marriage registrar when she apparently married a British citizen.

One of the documents was given to the woman at one of the "lessons" run by the agency rehearsing Home Office interviews. The agency also supplied a rough model letter to be sent to the Home Office. It contained the kind of grammatical errors likely from someone with little command of English.

It said: "Dear Sir/Madam, Revealing the way I feel for my wife is a very personal matter indeed, but since I have no choice I can gladly and proudly say my wife and I have no intention on ever having a separation. Being I am not the type of man to write any feelings on paper, to your question, yes I am a very happy married man."

The eight-page "crib sheet" listed the kind of questions that could be expected at a Home Office interview: Name of husband/wife, names of other members of the families, star signs, the names of best friends, favourite food, favourite television programmes and favourite music, colour of the toothpaste usually used by partner, partner's normal bedtime, partner's dress size, and where the couple met.

### Code of practice for journalists

## Press Council's 16 points tackle race, accuracy, privacy, fact and intrusion

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The first code of practice for journalists drawn up by the Press Council is due to be agreed tomorrow and come into force from Thursday.

The final 16-point document follows two months of consultation between the self-regulatory body, chaired by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper QC, newspaper industry organizations and public bodies, including the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Campaign for Homosexual Reform.

Three suggested changes to the council's original blueprint concerning the highly sensitive topics of treatment of crime and discrimination on the grounds of sex and religion have not been included. Instead, "such issues will be given further consideration after the adoption and publication of the code."

The recommendation to publish a code reflecting commonly accepted principles of good journalistic practice was contained in a report by an internal Press Council committee set up last year to review the body's future role and function.

The original code recommended by the report published in December has undergone several changes, without disturbing its broad thrust. It will stress that unethical conduct jeopardizes the freedom of the press. The

code's 16 points recommended for adoption by Mr Blom-Cooper and a small committee are:

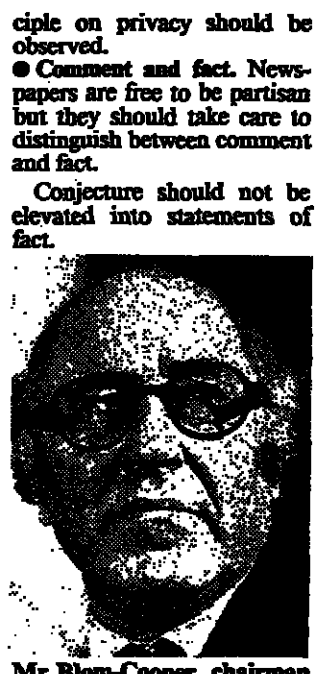
- Accuracy. It is the duty of newspapers not to publish deliberately or recklessly inaccuracies or statements designed to mislead, and to correct promptly and with due prominence significant inaccuracies which they have published, or misleading statements for which they are responsible, apologizing for these where appropriate.
- Opportunities to reply. It is the general duty of newspapers to allow a fair opportunity for reply when reasonably called for. In particular, it is the duty of newspapers to allow people or bodies they attack editorially a reasonable opportunity to reply.
- Privacy. Publishing information about the private lives of individuals without their consent is not acceptable unless publication is in the public interest (not synonymous with merely being of interest to the public) overriding the right of privacy.

It is the duty of editors to ensure that inquiries into people's private lives are not undertaken and information or pictures about their private lives are not published, unless inquiry or publication can be justified as being necessary in the public interest. The Press Council's declaration of principle on privacy should be observed.

● Subterfuge. Newspapers and journalists serving them should use straightforward means to obtain information or pictures.

Their use of subterfuge can be justified only to obtain material which ought to be published in the public interest and could not be obtained by other means.

● Payment for articles. Payments or offers of payment for stories, pictures or information, should not be made to witnesses or potential witnesses in current criminal proceedings. Or to people engaged in crime or their associates, except where the material concerned ought to be published in the public interest, and the payment is necessary to enable this to be done.



Mr Blom-Cooper, chairman of the Press Council.

● Intrusion into grief. Newspapers and journalists serving them should in general avoid intruding into personal grief. In cases involving grief, inquiries should be carried out and approaches made with sympathy and discretion.

● Innocent relatives. Newspapers should avoid identifying relatives of persons convicted or accused of crime unless the reference to them is directly relevant to the matter.

● Interviewing children. Journalists should not normally interview a child under the age of 16 in the absence of, or without the consent of, a parent or other adult who is responsible for the child.

● Children in sex cases. Newspapers should not, even where the law permits it, identify children under the age of 16 as victims (except in homicide cases) witnesses or defendants in cases concerning sexual offences.

● Rape victims. Newspapers should not identify victims of rape, or publish material likely to contribute to such identification.

● Pictures. Newspapers should refrain from publishing pictures which needlessly exacerbate grief or cause distress.

● Race and colour. Newspapers should not publish material likely to encourage discrimination on grounds of race, or colour, and should avoid reference to people's race or colour in prejudicial or pejorative contexts unless they are directly relevant to the story.

● Financial journalism. Journalists should not use for their own profit financial information they receive in advance of its general publication. The Press Council's declaration of principle on financial journalism should be observed.

● Hospitals. Journalists making inquiries of hospitals or similar institutions should identify themselves to a responsible official before entering, except in very rare cases where information which ought to be disclosed could not otherwise be obtained.

● Confidential sources. Journalists have an obligation to protect confidential sources of information.

## Half-term smiles masked by some inscrutable fun

ADRIAN BROOKS



Alexandra Jackson, aged six, took part in a programme at the weekend of traditional Chinese New Year activities to celebrate the Year of the Horse. The Commonwealth Institute in London organized a morning for children of all nationalities to make ancient

Chinese opera masks. Under the eye of a Chinese mask-making expert youngsters were shown how to make ancient masks as part of a workshop for the children of readers of *The Times* in the festive atmosphere of the Museum Store in the Covent Garden Piazza.

## Auction fight of the ski slopes

Sotheby's emerged victorious yesterday after fighting with Christie's for saleroom dominance in San Moritz.

The Swiss resort is a major stopping-point on the jet set's winter calendar and Sotheby's has held successful jewellery sales there for 15 years.

Christie's, showing an aggressive edge, moved in for the first time this year and held jewellery and expensive watch sales ahead of the opposition, taking £7.3 million.

Sotheby's reasserted itself during the weekend at the Hotel Kulm, where 718 lots of jewellery were 85 per cent sold for a total in excess of £10 million.

A spokeswoman said: "It was a good atmosphere and the total was the second highest we have ever achieved in San Moritz."

The glitterati and the gemstone dealers mixed in the saleroom and the top price of

### SALE ROOM

John Shaw

SF7,040,000 (£2,771,653) was paid by Moussieff jewellers of London and Geneva for a 20.62 carat unmounted fancy pink diamond, the fifth largest offered at auction.

Fancy pink diamonds are considered among the rarest and most desirable of all gemstones. Intense competition is ensured when one comes to auction.

Two other unmounted diamonds made the second and third highest prices; a step-cut stone of 21.82 carats took SF726,000 (£285,826), and a pear-shaped stone of 10.06 carats was sold to a private buyer at SF616,000 (£242,519).

Diamonds and "signed" pieces of jewellery were much

sought after like a sapphire and diamond cluster ring by Tiffany, which went for SF462,000 (£181,889) to a Geneva dealer. The sapphire was said to be Burmese.

● A Jasper Johns alphabet study made the top price of \$572,000 (£334,502) at Christie's sale of contemporary art in Park Avenue, New York. The classic example of the entire alphabet in black chalk from 1959 is one of his works containing letters of the alphabet or numbers for which demand is strong.

The sale made \$11,582,890 (£6,773,619), with 90 per cent sold. It also saw demand for pictures by Joan Mitchell and Jean Michel Basquiat. Mitchell had two pictures in the top five lots, the most expensive being "Summer Slide", an abstract from 1960-61 which made \$418,000 (£244,444). Basquiat's "Thermopole" sold for \$319,000 (£186,549).

## Profligate waste of talent that perturbs no one

Whitehall Brief

Ms Evelyn Brodie is senior assistant director of Morgan Grenfell. She is an economist by trade, knows how the numbers run and how boardrooms work. It is easy to imagine her adding value to any number of other organizations — public and private — whose business is the command of money.

In Ms Brodie's case you could add that she is a vivacious power-dresser, a description only half of which you would apply to Mr Alan Healey, a managerial type who is just about to take over as chief executive of Cheshire County Council. If his double-breasted city suit is uniform, he shares Ms Brodie's evident cleverness and marketability.

The two have something in common. Both have left the Civil Service without any inquiries into why. Ms Brodie, once in the Treasury, departed from the Cabinet Office for the private sector. Mr Healey is about to leave the Treasury's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency.

Both failed to have their arms twisted, their loyalties appealed to, money dangled in front of them, promises made about their future careers... Would IBM or British Telecom be so passive?

Whitehall's indifference to its loss might be because this pair were not impressive civil servants — a suggestion to which their track records give the lie. Or it could be that the Civil Service is so awash with talent, especially female talent, that it can afford to be profligate; it has so many bright economists and information technology specialists, it can let them go.

Conservative ministers have on occasion said it's no bad thing if civil servants get out of public administration into the "real world". But the fact is that ministers pay little or no attention to managerial questions, leaving them to permanent secretaries to consider. And even the most enthusiastic of anti-public sector ministers tend to enter a caveat — that it's imperative that some of the civil servants come

back at high levels. That, of course, never happens; the permanent secretaries do not relish the competition.

The brutal answer to why Whitehall does not bother about its personnel losses is that it doesn't care. The Civil Service has no tradition of personnel management at the centre worth speaking of. In the Treasury, personnel is for cissies: there is no one at the centre of the web worrying about losing the best and the brightest.

The low esteem in which personnel work is held can be illustrated by the fact that the one bit of Whitehall with personnel (the Management and Personnel Office) was abolished. Some of its functions passed to the Treasury where, typically, they were sidelined — given to a woman to do. That woman, Dame Anne Mueller, made a list of raising the status of personnel work, but she has now been allowed to retire without being replaced.

Officially, Whitehall would deny

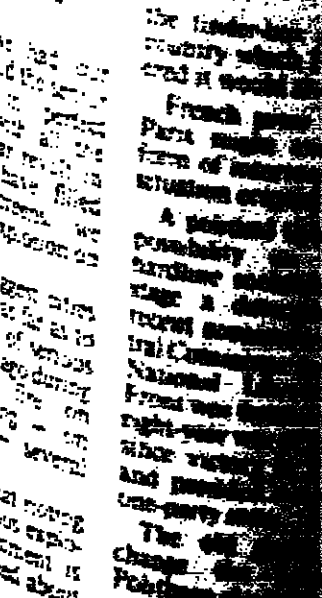
all the above. We have "establishments officers" in each department, they would say. Sir Robin Butler, the Head of the Civil Service, has advisers who keep him abreast of who is doing what and who deserves promotion. But these officials are amateurs. They rarely have the benefit of the management training routinely available in the private sector and elsewhere in the public sector. As a result, promotion is often an elaborate game of Chinese checkers, with no attempt made at a rigorous fitting of available talent and open positions.

If that sounds harsh, watch this space as officials have a flutter on who will be the next permanent secretary. The only question worth putting is: will he be the man (there is only one woman with a fighting chance) thrown up by the machine or the person selected by a professional personnel function. The answer is plain.

David Walker



**"I think, therefore IBM."**



هكذا من الأصل



# Mandela orders end to spiral of violence among rival blacks

From Nicholas Beeston, Durban

Mr Nelson Mandela yesterday instructed tens of thousands of his followers in Durban to lay down their arms and stop the bloody feuding between rival black groups in Natal.

In an address to the largest political rally since his release, the ANC leader warned more than 150,000 supporters that the continued violence threatened to derail the peace process for the entire country. His conciliatory call was the most determined attempt yet to halt nearly five years of fighting between the United Democratic Front, the pro-ANC umbrella movement, and Inkatha, the conservative Zulu nationalist organization, which claims to represent the majority of the country's largest tribe.

Up to 3,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands made homeless in black-on-black violence throughout the province for control of the townships.

"My message to those of you involved in this battle is take your guns, your knives and your pangas (machetes) and throw them into the sea," he ordered. "Close the death factories and this war now."

The move could prove to be Mr Mandela's toughest political challenge and will certainly test his credibility as South Africa's foremost black leader.

Mr Mandela received a rousing welcome from the crowd, who waited hours in the sweltering midday sun, outside Durban's King's Park stadium, but his conciliatory message and call for peace was at times greeted in silence.

Over the weekend at least six Front supporters were shot dead near Durban and an anonymous pamphlet calling for continued fighting was circulated the day before Mr Mandela's arrival.

"In the last few years of my imprisonment my greatest burden, my deepest suffering, was caused by reports that reached me of terrible things happening to you people in Natal," he said.

"If we do not bring a halt to the conflict we will be in great danger of corrupting the proud legacy of our struggle. We endanger the peace process in the whole country."

Although he said that some tribal chiefs in South Africa had collaborated with the white regime, he refrained from making any direct criticism of Inkatha and its leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

He added that while fundamental differences remained between the two sides, any non-discriminatory political organization would be allowed to operate in a future South Africa.

But he ruled out the possibility that Natal would be granted a special status in any future settlement.

"We extend the hand of peace to Inkatha and hope that it might one day be possible to share a platform with Chief Buthelezi," he said.

The ANC leader particularly stressed the importance of unity within the ranks of the blacks in South Africa until a non-racial democratic state could be established.

Mr Mandela also paid tribute to the Zulu nation for its historic struggle against "imperialism" which he dated back to the defeat of British forces at the battle of Isandlwana in 1879 by King Cetshwayo.

"Our youth has been the shock troops of our struggle," he told the crowd, made up mainly of teenagers. "Our youth must be ready to demonstrate the same perfect discipline as the armies of (Zulu) King Shaka."

He also praised the role of Natal's influential Indian community in the fight against apartheid and condemned the spate of attacks against Indians in Durban.

"We are extremely disturbed by recent acts of violence against our Indian compatriots," he said.

Mr Mandela went on to address the campaign to Bloemfontein to address another rally. Today he is expected to meet South African business leaders at his home in Soweto. Tomorrow he will leave South Africa for the first time in 27 years when he sets off to Lusaka for talks with the exiled ANC leadership.

## Windowless world limits shanty-town horizons

From Gavin Bell, Crossroads, Cape Province

Selma Mbalo has a narrow perspective of the changing South Africa from her home without windows in Crossroads, a black settlement near Cape Town.

The view from her door is a sea of flimsy wooden and corrugated iron shacks — squalor in a dusty wasteland.

The wooden door is the most solid feature of what Selma calls her "house". It is an army tent, where she has been living for four years with her son, aged 21, her brother and sister-in-law, and a fluctuating number of infants. The new South Africa is a few yards away, in a private development of small bungalows where a fortunate few have managed to rise above the deprivation.

The three types of abode represent the cycle of life in Crossroads. Squatters arriving from the tribal homelands build shacks in the shanty-town, are evicted to make way for housing projects, and given tents until a low-cost home becomes available for rent or purchase.

It is the kind of environment where one might expect hostility towards whites in their affluent suburbs a few miles away, but apart from a few highly-politicized youths, bitterness is curiously absent.

Most are good-natured people with three priorities — a decent place to live, a steady job, and a proper education for their children. The importance of politics in achieving these goals is dimly perceived, and the mechanics of power-sharing with whites hardly at all. It is enough that President de Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela are working it out, and with luck and God's help all will be well.

The complexities of ending the state of emergency, releasing political prisoners, and constitutional guarantees for minorities are lost on Selma. She has more immediate concerns: "It is not nice to stay here, winter is much too cold. We have blankets, but they get wet and every morning you wake up your head is very sore." But she is happy Mr Mandela is free, and has faith in Mr de Klerk: "Everybody is talking very well of Mr de Klerk, and maybe everything will be OK. He must look after the people." Her brother Jack says: "When you get money, you can make your life better, but when you got no money you can't do nothing. Too much of people don't work, so how can you have houses and shoes for your children? I think Mandela is a good man, and God must go with Mr de Klerk surely, so they can make it better."

Most of Jack's monthly salary of £180 as a truck-driver goes to support his three children and nine sisters in his native Transkei, but his tent is as clean and habitable as humanly possible. The "living room", curtained off from sleeping areas, has a couch with a hand-woven cover and a threadbare carpet. A vase of fresh flowers sits on a side-table.

William Dimalisile earns roughly the same as a forklift driver, but he has fewer mouths to feed, and three years ago he scraped together £115 for a deposit on a two-bedroomed bungalow a few steps from Jack's tent. The house is simply furnished, but comfortable and clean, a replica of larger homes in middle-class white suburbs.

"It's a struggle, and there's nothing to spare, but Mr de Klerk made our dreams come true by letting Mandela out and now they're going to be busy and organizing everything right," he said.

"I think it's important every person should vote, because if you have a white man in power he will look only on his side, and if you have a black man he will look on his side, so you need the two to look after everybody."

Crossroads, the scene of savage factional fighting a few years ago, has a long way to go. Squatters' shacks were burnt to the ground last week. But the remarkable will to build rather than destroy survives.

Selma sweeps her carpet and lives in hope: "Maybe now sometime we have a house with windows."

### ● The mechanics of power-sharing with whites are thought unimportant ●

Mandela is free, and has faith in Mr de Klerk: "Everybody is talking very well of Mr de Klerk, and maybe everything will be OK. He must look after the people." Her brother Jack says: "When you get money, you can make your life better, but when you got no money you can't do nothing. Too much of people don't work, so how can you have houses and shoes for your children? I think Mandela is a good man, and God must go with Mr de Klerk surely, so they can make it better."

Most of Jack's monthly salary of £180 as a truck-driver goes to support his three

## A confident Ortega courts US approval

From Charles Bremner, Managua

Under the gaze of a galaxy of foreign observers, ranging from former US President Jimmy Carter to Mrs Bianca Jagger, Nicaragua's voters delivered their first democratic verdict yesterday on President Ortega, and on the Sandinista Government that has steered the country into revolutionary socialism and through a decade of civil war and conflict with the United States.

Whoever is proclaimed winner of the presidential and legislative elections after the count today, the contest is expected to redeem Nicaragua from its status as an outlaw in the US back yard and turn it into a more traditional impoverished Latin country eager for American assistance.

Señor Ortega, supremely confident of victory, spent the weekend telling foreign journalists that he envisaged an end to the Contra rebel army and rapid rapprochement with Washington once the vote confirmed the legitimacy of his Government. "It's time for a new chapter, for putting aside the quarrels," he said.

Señor Ortega said he hoped that President Bush would attend his inauguration: "The door is open to him."

A curious but typically Latin American paradox governed the campaign: the Sandinistas endlessly reviled the *Yanquis* as the source of all their evils while courting their approval. Not since the revolution 10 years ago have so many Americans and other foreigners been swarming round Nicaragua as they did this weekend.

In dusty villages and crumbling towns across this dirt-poor little state, citizens were bemused to find clusters of clip-board-wielding experts and other scrutineers with armbands whose presence testified to the extraordinary international interest in ensuring that they had a fair chance to choose between the Sandinistas and the motley American-backed coalition grouped behind Señora Violeta Chamorro.

Although opinion polls showed the Sandinistas heading for a clear victory, the uncertainties of voting in a



President Ortega greeting former President Carter in Managua on the eve of elections likely to endorse the Sandinistas.

country with no democratic experience made predictions hazardous. Voters swarmed to the polling stations in the early hours amid clear signs that the Sandinistas had marshalled a vast army of workers and fleets of lorries to ferry and in some streets of the capital, Managua, Sandinista People's Army lorries emblazoned with "Vote Daniel" stickers transported soldiers to polling stations.

More than 6,000 foreigners were accredited as poll observers, one for every 270 eligible voters. Among them was a battalion of minor show-business celebrities, including Mick Jagger's former wife (a Nicaraguan by birth), and actors and writers from America and Europe. Dozens of foreign left-wing groups also supervised the voting, among them a British "solidarity" outfit that has painted an impressive mural bearing a slogan that Nicaraguans find somewhat puzzling: "No poll tax aquí (here)".

Leading the poll monitoring were teams from the United Nations and the Organization of American States as well as 35 from Mr Carter's centre for peace studies in Atlanta.

The former President, who brought with him two dozen American congressmen and other dignitaries, including Mr Jim Wright, the former House Speaker, proclaimed the nine-month campaign a remarkable success. The play-

ing field may not have been quite level, but the opposition had been given the opportunity to get its message across, Mr Carter said.

Mr Carter, who has emerged in recent years as a respected mediator, said that he was concerned by the risk of tension in the aftermath of such an acrimonious race. The government party has consistently depicted Señora Chamorro's coalition as a band of traitors and fools selling out their country to the United States.

Mr Elliot Richardson, the veteran former US Cabinet member who is heading the UN observer team, also gave his imprimatur to the campaign, a stamp of approval required of the Sandinistas as a condition of the Central American peace accords. "Although not free of significant flaws, the process has worked on the whole remarkably well," he said yesterday. Mr Richardson said he had tried hard to think of ways to beat the system in these polls and "I haven't yet been able to come up with a good scheme."

"While it is unlikely that there will be even small instances of manipulation or fraud, it's even more unlikely that this will occur on any significant scale," Mr Richardson, a former Attorney General, said.

Bush administration officials remain sceptical, however.

## Italian fears of racial unrest as illegal immigrants return

From Paul Bompard, Rome

A ship carrying 54 illegal immigrants from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan sailed into Bari harbour yesterday afternoon, bringing them to the southern Italian port for the second time in five days.

The 48 men and six women, with no visas or money, were caught by the Italian police in the same port at 3am on Thursday. The authorities put them aboard a ship and sent them back to Patras, Greece, their last port of origin.

But the Greek authorities turned them back, and they have nowhere to go.

This group of would-be immigrants, dubbed by the Italian media as "the boat people of the Mediterranean" and the commuters of despair, are the latest recruits to an army of illegal Third World workers in Italy which the European Community estimates at \$50,000, and which is beginning to raise serious social problems. Italians have always considered themselves non-racist. But for the first time in its history, Italy has a large non-white population, which has become increasingly conspicuous, even changing the character of some big-city areas.

And while the arrival of cheap, unprotected labour has been welcomed by many, it should not be forgotten that Italy still has heavy unemployment, a housing shortage and insufficient social security.

For many years Italy has been the easiest of the main European countries to enter. Border controls are lax, hazardous and confused, and no entry visa is needed from countries such as Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. This has led to increasing tension and occasional outbreaks of racism. The great fear is of a war between poor Italians and Third World workers.

From a legal and political standpoint, race was ignored until recently. When Signor Claudio Martelli, the socialist Vice Prime Minister, presented a decree on immigration, suggesting allocating 15 per cent of public housing to foreigners, it was dropped.

The decree finally approved by Parliament last week, passed after heated debate, will assume it is approved by the Senate by February 28, "legalize" all those immigrants inside Italy before December 31, 1989, and establish annual quotas.

Opponents of this decree, both inside Signor Martelli's party and from other coalition parties, point out that it is irresponsible to take steps which will only encourage more immigration, when the country is not capable of taking care of its own citizens.

### WORLD ROUNDUP

## 400 arrested in Nepal protests

Kathmandu (AFP) — More than 400 people were arrested here and in other Nepalese towns yesterday as activists protested against what they described as three decades of repression under a system that forbids political parties. Witnesses said students, pro-democracy and pro-leftist activists, lawyers, journalists, professors and an MP were arrested. The Government released no figures.

Padma Ratna Tuladhar, an arrested MP, said before the protests that the Government could not break up an alliance between banned left-wing and democratic parties. He said it would continue whatever dirty trick the *panchayat* (partyless) Government may play against our unity, he said. A government spokesman announced that 501 more people had been released after a recent wave of arrests. Twelve people have died in clashes with protesters.

## No to hostage-taking

Nicosia (Reuters) — Ayatollah Muhammad Yazdi, the leading Iranian judge, was quoted yesterday as saying his country opposed hostage-taking, terrorism and hijacking. "Iran opposes any form of hostage-taking, terrorism and piracy because they are contrary to Islamic and humanitarian principles," he told the pro-government English-language *Tehran Times*. The newspaper called, in an editorial last Thursday, for the release of 17 Western hostages believed to be held by pro-Iranian Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. Ayatollah Yazdi said Iran's commitment to Islamic revolution "is not tantamount to violation of international laws... and interference in domestic affairs of any country or the violation of its national sovereignty".

## Bangladesh aid 'flaw'

The people of Bangladesh are getting poorer because large sums of foreign aid are being wrongly targeted, according to an Oxford report published today (Michael Keane writes). It argues that instead of devoting aid to heavily capitalized infrastructure projects such as railways, bridges and roads, aid should be concentrated on smaller self-help programmes. Bangladesh, with a population of 100 million, is one of Britain's biggest aid commitments — more than £40 million annually. But half is devoted to big development projects in which contracts go to UK firms, with the aid money never leaving British banks, the report says. There was also evidence that food-for-work programmes funded by the World Food Programme were flawed by corruption.

## Kabul urges reform

Kabul (AFP) — President Najibullah of Afghanistan told Parliament yesterday that his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was unacceptable to the Mujahideen rebels in its present form and must be changed. Speaking at the opening session of Parliament in an underground hall at the Foreign Ministry here, he also said some sections of the Constitution must also go to conform to the new situation in the country. He pledged that the changes in the party would be submitted to the public and not just to the party membership for approval.

## Plant sabotage theory

Ottawa — Eight employees of a nuclear power plant in southern New Brunswick were under medical care yesterday after consuming a drink spiked with radioactive heavy water (John Best writes). Officials of the plant at Point Le Preau near the Bay of Fundy coast suspect sabotage and have called in the police. Heavy water, used as a coolant in Canada's Candu nuclear-generating system, was substituted for drinking water to mix with time crystals in making a dispenser drink. A routine urine test on Thursday revealed high levels of radiation among the eight.

## China woos tourists

Peking (AFP) — China is to slash tourism prices in an attempt to lure back foreigners scared off by last June's crushing of the democracy movement. Tourism agencies are to give foreign visitors a 10 per cent discount during the peak season from April to November, and a 35 per cent cut from December to March 1991.

## State polls will put Gandhi's party leadership to the test

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi



Mr Gandhi: Under attack after November's defeat.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi's survival as leader of the Congress (I) Party is being severely tested as he braces for another blow to his prestige in crucial state elections tomorrow.

Cracks in the party have grown increasingly serious amid a stream of defections by senior and junior Congress leaders. There is widespread anger that Mr Gandhi has done nothing to rejuvenate the party after November's general election defeat.

The real challenge to Congress's towering authority comes from the rise of Hindu fundamentalism, which looks certain to make a significant advance after tomorrow's polls in eight states across northern and western India.

The much-resented secessionist movement in Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state, has significantly boosted the popularity of the right-wing Hindu group, the Bharatiya Janata Party. It stands a good chance of seizing control of the powerful state of Madhya Pradesh and the smaller state of Himachal Pradesh, adjoining Kashmir.

The big western state of Maharashtra could fall to an alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena — a pro-Hindu party based in Bombay, whose aggressive fundamentalism feeds on virulent anti-Muslim sentiment. India's 100 million Muslims view its advance with deep alarm.

The rising appeal of fundamentalism stands in the way of the Congress party's struggle to regain its former pre-eminent position. Without the magic name of Gandhi at its head Congress would probably split. But even if Mr Gandhi does survive, the party could suffer for want of decisive leadership.

Apart from testing Mr Gandhi's fortunes, the elections will be a referendum on the National Front Government that took power in December. The Administration is an uneasy amalgam of opposites, with the right-wing Hindu party on one end and the communists on the other, each propping up the minority Janata Dal (People's Party) Government in Parliament.

The real power behind the Government is the Bharatiya Janata Party. Mr Vishwanath

Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, a moderate, is plainly uncomfortable with having to rely on the Hindu party to keep his government afloat. Strains do exist, but there is every possibility that the Administration will survive.

Various political permutations are being discussed if Congress does get a drubbing tomorrow. There is serious talk of a post-election realignment of centrist forces, embracing elements both of Congress and Janata Dal, perhaps with the present prime minister as its leader.

Leading article, page 15

## Algeria's 'revolution' has changed only the rhetoric

From Susan MacDonald, Algiers

"Thank God that we had our revolution in 1988," said the senior government official in perfect French. "Otherwise, with all the vivid images of popular revolt in Eastern Europe that have filled Algerian television screens, we would now have a real explosion on our hands."

Others in Algeria's biggest cities and towns would not go as far as to thank God for the week of serious rioting almost 17 months ago during which troops opened fire on rampaging youths, killing — on conservative estimates — several hundred people.

Nor is it certain that that rioting precludes a far more serious explosion. The French Government is known to be very concerned about

the tinder-box atmosphere in this country which France once considered it would always govern.

French press reports claim that Paris might even consider some form of intervention if the delicate situation erupted into open strife.

A political upheaval is a distinct possibility on Thursday, when hardline socialists are expected to stage a determined challenge to recent economic reforms at a Central Committee meeting of the ruling National Liberation Front. The Front was formed to fight the brutal eight-year war of independence and, since victory in 1962, has created and presided over a socialist-style one-party state.

The old guard also wants to change the reformist-dominated Politburo elected in December.

The main problem for those who

took to the streets in 1988 is that everything and nothing, has changed since.

"If the rioting and killing had happened today in the wake of Eastern Europe," said an Algerian businessman, "the Government could not possibly have survived."

To enable Algerians to absorb this truth as they watch popular uprisings in Eastern Europe, what officials previously played down as "the events of 1988" have now been upgraded to "the 1988 revolution".

The intention is to give Algerians the impression that they were ahead of their time. Their "revolution", however, is being conducted from the top. President Chadli has pushed through a new Constitution. On paper, the one-party state has gone, with 20 new political parties recognized. But no elections have yet

been held. Not only the Government but also the National Assembly are wholly composed of Front members.

President Chadli talks of the need for national unity, and has put opposition figures in government.

But Mr Hocine Ait Ahmed, an original Front leader now returned from exile, has publicly demanded that the assembly be dissolved and elections held.

The powerful armed forces, told under the new Constitution to retire to their barracks, have also let it be known that they will not stand by if the democratic process fails or the rising tide of Islamic extremism in Algeria becomes too powerful.

Since the Islamic Salvation Front became the only legalized Islamic party in the Maghreb, it has gathered behind it an ever-increasing tide of

supporters dissatisfied with their way of life. Friday sermons at the main Algiers mosques controlled by the Islamic Salvation Front, the strongest opposition party, have appealed for unity among its activists.

The youths who in 1988 ran wild in protest against unemployment, rising food prices and corruption are still waiting for someone to find them work and a place to live. With an Algerian wit that denotes the continuing blend of Arab and French culture, they are nicknamed the "hetistes" ("wallers"). The French suffix has been tacked onto *het*, the Arabic for "wall".

But wit cannot disguise the disillusionment being so ably exploited by the Islamic Salvation Front. Algeria's neighbours are fearful of the consequences.



Clamour for independence grows amid Gorbachov's electoral reforms

# Poll heralds showdown on Lithuania

## Moldavians get a first taste of voting choice

From Anatol Lievas, Vilnius

A crisis is now looming in relations between Lithuania and Moscow, as the sweeping victory of the Lithuanian Reform Movement, Sajudis, in the weekend elections leaves President Gorbachov little grounds for hope that a showdown on concrete details on independence can be delayed for very long.

According to Sajudis estimates, confirmed by official sources, candidates backed by the Movement have won 72 out of 90 deputies elected in the first round — or 82 per cent. In the remaining constituencies, a second round will be held as no candidate won an absolute majority. Forty-five of these will go to the polls again on March 10, and six on April 7.

Turn-out in Saturday's elections was around 75 per cent, with country areas tending to lag behind the towns. The independent Communist Party of Lithuania did slightly better than these results might suggest, winning 22 seats so far. However, 13 of these are party members standing of the Sajudis ticket, including Professor Eduardas Vilkas, a possible candidate.

Budapest (AP) — Twelve of more than 50 political parties have won sufficient electoral support to contest the first national multi-party elections in more than four decades in March, the *Mat Nap* newspaper reported.

for Prime Minister. Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, presently deputy prime minister, failed to gain 50 per cent in her Vilnius constituency, it would seem mainly because of the large Polish and Russian population there, and she faces a run-off.

Nine Social Democrats were elected on the Sajudis ticket, together with two Greens and two Christian Democrats. The remaining candidates were all "non party", and Sajudis leaders do not rule out that the Movement might soon transform itself into a party.

The nine Lithuanian Communists standing alone, who succeeded without Sajudis backing, include the president, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, and the three other party secretaries. Mr Brazauskas has won considerable popularity in recent months for leading the party to break with the Soviet party and for his firm stand in negotiations with Moscow. Evidently, this was not enough to save his party from the dislike accumulated over 50 years of Communist rule.

The Communist remnant which remained with the CPSU won seven seats, almost entirely it would seem through the support of the Polish, Russian and Byelorussian minorities. These form some 20 per cent of the population, so this party might have expected to do better, but a fair number of Russians seem to have expected independence as inevitable and to have voted accordingly for the Sajudis.

Mr Algis Cekuolis, the Sajudis leader, yesterday described the boycott of the elections by the voters of Snieckus as "a great victory". The town is 92 per cent Russian, mostly workers from the nearby Ignalina nuclear power plant. Last month, the popular local Russian Orthodox priest, Father Anthony, who was standing for election as an independent, was transferred to a parish in Siberia, apparently at the instigation of the local authorities. Faced with only one candidate, the local CPSU secretary, people simply stayed at home.

According to Mr Cekuolis: "If this tendency continues, it proves that the situation in Latvia and Estonia is not as hopeless as some have thought" — a reference to the large Russian population there. Others, however, see the Snieckus boycott mainly as the product of local factors.

The solidarity of the Polish vote in favour of candidates opposed to Lithuanian independence is causing concern among observers. The Sajudis put up no Polish candidates, and contributed to the CPSU successes by putting up Lithuanian candidates even in areas such as Salcininkai, where they had no chance of victory.

A majority of Lithuania's 280,000 Poles are demanding the creation of their own autonomous republic in the Salcininkai area, a demand which has been rejected out of hand by the Sajudis.

A new interim government may be formed well before the new Supreme Soviet actually meets. When it does so, one of its first tasks may be to change the existing rule which prevents ministers from also being deputies.

Dr Vitas Landsbergis, the Sajudis leader, yesterday said that the Sajudis desires a coalition government including members of the Communist Party of Lithuania. This was, in fact, always obvious as the Sajudis itself is a coalition between nationalist communists and other groups.

It had been thought likely that Mr Brazauskas would be



Public choice: Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, Lithuania's Communist Party leader, casting his own ballot in Vilnius yesterday.

allowed to remain as President, but in view of the scale of the Sajudis victory this is no longer clear. Sajudis leaders yesterday refused to commit themselves on the issue.

Talking of the "law of secession" coming before the Moscow Supreme Soviet, Dr Landsbergis said: "We believe that this does not apply to Lithuania, and we must keep reminding Moscow of this." Sajudis deputies in Moscow are expected to boycott the vote there on the law.

Dr Landsbergis said: "The goal of Sajudis is full independence, which means the existence of a separate state. It may be bound by international treaties with the Soviet Union, or Poland, or Sweden, or any other state."

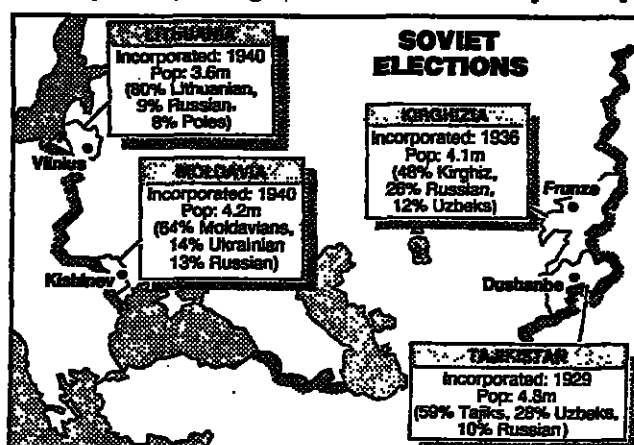
"After the elections and the formation of a new Lithuanian government, a special delegation for negotiations with Moscow has to be chosen. There then may be two paths to independence. Negotiations could take place in

which both sides agree on a realistic date for real independence. Another way would be to declare unilaterally formal and legal independence, simultaneously calling upon Moscow and the rest of the world to recognize and support such a move."

He added: "First of all, we foresee the unity of the Baltic states. It may counterbalance our eastern neighbourhood and provide an opening to the West and the Common Market."

"It will not happen, however, as soon as Mr Gorbachov predicts by drawing nice pictures of our 'common European home'." Common home with prison cells and isolated dirty rooms?

Equally central to relations between the new political order in Lithuania and the Kremlin is the question of conscription into the Soviet army. Sajudis leaders have promised that a government under their influence will give legal backing to the thousands



Lithuania, Tajikistan, Moldavia and Kirghizia, where republic and local elections are being held.

of young Lithuanians who will refuse to obey the draft beginning at the end of March.

The presence of so many Russians in Latvia and Estonia has meant that these republics have tended to move more slowly than Lithuania on the road to independence. Both however took steps in this direction over the weekend.

In Riga, a conference of pro-independent Communists has called for the separation of the Latvian Party from the CPSU. In Estonia, nationalist "Citizens' Committees" began this weekend to hold elections to their own "Estonia Congress".

From Nick Worrall, Kishinev, Moldavia

The small secondary-school building in the Bubuovsky district of Kishinev, the capital of Soviet Moldavia, hummed with unaccustomed activity yesterday morning as voters crowded in for their first free election with a real choice of candidates.

Mrs Tamara Udovichenko, a senior teacher, bustled about in stiff white blouse and smart black skirt, proudly presiding over polling district number 33, as her school had become for the day. She chairs the electoral commission for Bubuovsky, which makes her the district returning officer.

"I've been chairman here for 20 years," she beamed. "But I'm impressed that this time people have been coming to talk to the candidates. It's never happened before and the people are very enthusiastic." One third of the people included in her register had voted within the first four hours.

Elections in the Soviet Union have been dreary affairs in the past, merely a public rubber stamp for the "suitable" candidates selected by the Communist Party. But, under President Gorbachev's democratic reforms, there is choice aplenty here in Moldavia where the people are electing a new Supreme Soviet, or parliament, for the republic, along with city and district councils.

Warm spring sun shone down on Bubuovsky, a neat, broad-avenued residential suburb of eastern Kishinev where the blocks of flats are set far apart and the tree-lined roads keep clean and tidy, astonishingly so to eyes accustomed to the grime of Moscow and Leningrad.

Here, the voters could choose from three candidates for the Supreme Soviet, eight for the city council and five and six for each of two district councils. The Moldavian Popular Front, running on a platform of autonomy from Moscow leading to outright secession, is contesting 300 of the 380 Supreme Soviet seats, leaving out districts with heavy Russian, Ukrainian or other national populations. The Popular Front is fighting all the seats in District 33.

Perhaps unwisely, the Communist Party — still the only political party permitted — did not officially nominate any candidates. It merely lent campaign support to those it wanted to win. Of course, the

party controls the media and Communist Party officials reject the notion that this was a multi-party election. But Popular Front workers scoff at this, saying the Communists will have cause to regret their arrogance when they sit as the minority in the Supreme Soviet.

The other candidates are independents, such as Mrs Valentina Morar, a machine-factory worker nominated by the several thousand women in her workers' co-operative. She has been campaigning on social issues — demanding a better deal for children and the handicapped. She is worried about the environment but denies that she is a potential Green.

"I have no antagonism towards the Communist Party but their power is too centralized," she explained, describing Popular Front plans for a separate Moldavian state as "unpredictable and dangerous".

There was no information on the voting slips or inside the polling stations to show the candidates' platforms or their party affiliations. The candidates were discouraged from entering the polling stations but were allowed to appoint "trustees" to monitor the voting and the counts.

Polling station organization and behaviour — in three districts visited at random — seemed immaculate with no police presence. Despite rumours of demonstrations over the past week, no trouble had been reported by early evening.

The voting slips were printed in Russian and Moldavian (Romanian). Polls were supplied in cartoned voting booths. Handicapped voters were allowed to vote at home — with officials calling to collect their ballot papers. Voters planning to be out of town or otherwise unable to attend were allowed to vote in advance and leave their ballot papers in sealed envelopes.

The voters could also buy refreshments. A great incentive to turn up, some food is as scarce here as in Moscow and the choice in the shops just as poor. So the queue for cakes, sausage, pie, stuffed apples, tarts and tea was a long one, as it was two miles away at Oktyabrsky, District 23, where a poster of Lenin, stern as ever, gazed down on voters.

Full results are expected tomorrow.

# Thousands join Moscow demonstration against Communist Party rule

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The first officially sanctioned mass demonstration by opposition groups in Moscow three weeks ago was almost a celebration of the novelty of demonstrating. The sun shone, there were children and laughter, and the chief targets of the marchers' placards were conservatives in the leadership.

Yesterday's pre-election demonstration, in contrast, was a serious political event which brought several hundred thousand people together in a concerted protest against Communist Party rule.

The sky was leaden, the roads were rivers of mud, and the festive procession of February 4 was replaced by a controlled promenade around one of the least prepossessing stretches of the inner

ring road. Where a degree of spontaneity had marked the policing three weeks ago, and the venue was changed at the last moment to the historic Manezh Square at the Kremlin Wall, yesterday nothing was left to chance.

Every lorry in Moscow must have been requisitioned to form a barricade or a potential barricade. A complicated one-way system operated through central Moscow, much of which was closed to traffic altogether. Few buses were running, the Kremlin and Red Square were inaccessible. And around the vast Manezh Square, police stood at ten yard intervals along the pavements. Such was the fear of an attempt to storm the citadel of Soviet power.

At the starting points of the demonstration — outside the Stalinist

"Gothic" tower of the Foreign Ministry and at the gates of Gorky Park — lines of police stopped the traffic and funnelled the tide of pedestrians onto the ring road. The closest underground stations were

Washington (AP) — David Goldfarb, a noted Soviet reformer, died on Saturday of heart failure at George Washington University Hospital, his son said. Goldfarb, aged 71, left the Soviet Union in 1986 after Mr Armand Hammer, the US industrialist, arranged for his release. *Obituary, page 16.*

shut. On the ring road itself, at either end of the route, stood ranks of police in metal helmets, with riot shields and long black truncheons in their hands.

For two weeks, the people of the

Soviet Union had been bombarded with ever louder warnings of trouble on February 25. All central organs of power, from the Supreme Soviet (parliament), through the Central Committee, to the Council of Ministers had spoken of the risks of extremist provocations and established the intent of the authorities to keep order "within what is permissible by law".

On Friday evening, the Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, gave a television interview in which he warned of the risks of extremist provocations fomenting violence.

Yesterday, many of the thousands who braved the warnings and transport difficulties to reach the inner ring road, complained bitterly of the campaign of "bluff and blackmail" with which the

authorities had tried to keep them away. The organizers complained of inaccurate and inconsistent information being given about the venue. Three weeks ago Radio Moscow had invited "everyone who favours reform" to join the rally: yesterday morning radio and television were silent on the subject, concentrating instead on Russian Shrove-tide festivities, the traditional end of winter.

"Bluff" and "blackmail", however, were some of the milder accusations levelled at the authorities yesterday. While Mr Yegor Ligachov, held to be the leader of the conservatives in the Politburo and the Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov, were the bogymen of the last demonstration, this time their names were barely mentioned. The mood and the slogans were almost all

directed against the party itself. "Down with the party en bloc", "Power to the people, not to the party" were common refrains.

In the middle of the dully-dressed crowd was a young mother with a pram. The baby inside had a small wooden icon placed beside his head to keep him safe — such was the fear that the afternoon would end in violence. By 3pm, however, the last speaker was announced and the crowd then dispersed sombrely, but peacefully. As they reached the entrance of the reopened underground station, three stout Russian women with large fur hats and matching collars went up to the line of police, pointed to their truncheons, and shook their hands warmly — for having stood back and let the protest happen.

# East Germans pick line-up for elections

From Anne McElvey, East Berlin, and Ian Murray, Bonn

The three main East German political parties have now chosen the candidates who will lead their list in the election on March 18.

Their party conferences showed that the Social Democrats (SPD) are much better organized than the Christian Democrats (DDR-CDU), who have failed to create an effective alliance of the right.

The communists will be led by Herr Hans Modrow, the transitional Prime Minister, who has decided to stay with the party even though he knows that in consequence he stands virtually no chance at all of being in the new Government.

Both the SPD and the CDU say they expect a coalition government will be formed after the election, but both ruled out participation of the communist party, though it has been reformed in the past three months.

At the end of the Social Democrats' founding congress yesterday, they began what looks like being a triumphant election campaign by setting out a timetable for German unity and promising that they would avoid a mere annexing of the country to West Germany.

The congress also forged closer links with the West German SPD by choosing Herr Willy Brandt, its hono-

ary president and former West German leader, as its figurehead. Herr Brandt, who brought inter-German relations out of the Cold War during his Chancellery in the early 1970s with his policy of *Ostpolitik*, was beside the leader of the East German SPD, Herr Ibrahim Bohme, on the balcony of Leipzig's

under the wheels" — a reference to East German fears that the transition to unity would cause economic hardship in the East.

Herr Bohme said that a united Germany should not try to rival the existing superpowers. He told delegates that the party would hold a conference of the four allied

together of the two Germans," Herr Bohme said. The star of the weekend was undoubtedly Herr Brandt, who was also given a warm welcome in the Saxony town of Zwickau, now regarded as one of the most aggressively anti-communist areas of East Germany. He called on the crowd of 40,000 to "pursue change with restraint" and not to take out their anger on the Soviet troops stationed in the region.

Calls for the 380,000 troops stationed in East Germany to leave are growing louder by the week, with Soviet garrisons reporting aggression from local people, who see the soldiers as the vestige of Soviet oppression.

Herr Brandt, who has emerged from semi-retirement to assume the mantle as adviser and trouble-shooter for the Social Democrats in the East, is unafraid to play the nationalist card, which has formerly been the strength of his Christian Democrat opponents. He invited the rally to look forward to the day "when we can be among ourselves again" and dismissed fears that a united Germany would be too strong, saying to cheers: "That is our problem."

Removed from his post as Chancellor in 1974 after an East German spy was discovered to be working in his

office, he has often said that his own fate is bound up with that of the East.

Herr Bohme, a historian who has emerged swiftly to lead the SDP in the East, said yesterday that it would be confident that it would be the SPD who would negotiate the unity of Germany. The party currently has a 53 per cent lead in the polls.

As the Social Democrats returned from Leipzig to their new headquarters in East Berlin to plan for victory, the communists ended their pre-election congress in decidedly less jubilant mood.

The party has lost more than half of their two million members since November. Despite the party's attempts to shake off its past, the corruption of the former regime continues to taint its new image.

The Public Prosecutor's Office confirmed yesterday that the former leader, Herr Erich Honecker, is being investigated for syphoning off money paid for the release of political prisoners in the East by the Bonn Government.

The money, totalling 75 million Deutschmarks (£26 million), was allegedly held in an account in the foreign trade bank accessible only to Herr Honecker, who will face treason and corruption charges next month.

# Milking the past for cash

Letter from Budapest

There is plenty of money to be made from the collapse of communism. Hungarians have discovered that their country's own Stalinist past can generate much-needed hard currency.

Sales are already starting to boom. At a sprawling flea market on the outskirts of Budapest, far from the usual tourist haunts, West Europeans can be seen on the prowl for kitschy communist collectables. They sift through old nails, used toasters and dusty Art Deco lamps for red stars, busts and statues of Lenin in all sizes and poses, and discarded uniforms of the disbanded Workers' Militia, considered at one time to be the private army of the Hungarian communist party.

There are drawers full of red stars on belts, buckles, badges and caps, as well as a good supply of old watches with red stars on the face. "Are you a communist?" asks a dealer. "That's all over now," he adds, as if to emphasize, like a Sotheby's catalogue, the rapidly appreciating historical value.

Perhaps the sellers had read an article in the newspaper *Magyar Hirlop* about a West German antique dealer who arrived in Budapest with a long shopping list of communist memorabilia. According to the paper, a large red star would fetch up to DM4,000 (£1,400), with similarly high prices for Lenin statues — a premium to be paid for bronze additions — and emblems from the former People's Republic of Hungary.

It seems that the selling fever is contagious. Even Mrs Maria Kadar, wife of the late leader Janos Kadar, is rumoured to be considering parting with her husband's collection of china vases, hunting rifles and a model railway. Although the proceeds will be funnelled into an educational fund or a Kadar museum, the official state office for antiquities

has said that it underestimated demand for such items and will decide in the next few weeks if it will get into the business for profit.

There is certainly a lot of stock around. Tens of thousands of red stars, symbol of socialist solidarity ordered by Stalin, were removed from schools, government buildings and water towers since Hungary adopted a new law last year banning party emblems on public buildings.

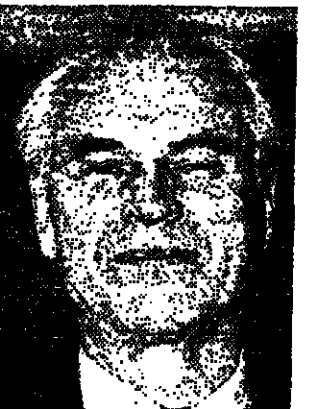
However, passionate collectors will not get their hands on the biggest prize of all — the one-tonne red star which was set on the top of Parliament. It has been safely stored away in the building's cellar awaiting eventual placement in a museum, although huge sums have reportedly been offered for it.

At the Hungarian National Museum they also scoff at any idea of auctioning its collection of socialist realist works of art, which number about 70 important paintings and sculptures, including a 6ft aluminium model of the infamous Stalin statue which was toppled and hacked to bits by angry demonstrators during the 1956 uprising.

The Defence Ministry appears more willing to part with the past, offering for sale a large selection of some 400 late model Soviet tanks — T-34s, T-54s and T-55s — at the bargain price of just eight forints (7p) per kilo, to be sold in pieces or whole. About 15 have found buyers, including a West German museum and a Hungarian road haulage firm. "They could even be used in films," the ministry said.

But lovers of the communist art genre will be disappointed to learn that, according to latest reports, the biggest Lenin statue, which was "temporarily" removed for renovation last June, will never appear in public again.

Ernest Beck



Heading into the fray: Herr Modrow, left, will be leading the communists, and Herr Bohme the Social Democrats.

city hall to be saluted by crowds of tens of thousands chanting "Willy, Willy".

West German flags fluttered above the throng, and many people held banners praising Brandt, one reading "Where there's a Willy, there's a way."

Herr Brandt said that "the train of East German unity is rolling along the tracks. We must make sure nobody falls

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

# Trial casts doubt on end of Ceausescu repression

From Tim Judah, Bucharest

The trial of 38 young people caught inside the Government's headquarters after it was stormed a week ago has cast doubt on whether Romania's system of justice has changed much since the fall of Ceausescu.

The 38 were convicted late on Friday night of public order offences. Eleven were jailed for up to six months while the rest were fined or given other penalties.

One observer at the trial said: "It's a complete sham; so many legal errors have been made that this trial is totally null and void."

The observer, who does not want to be identified because he fears for his safety, said the most flagrant violation of the law was that the charges were changed half-way through the trial.

He said: "Originally they were accused of 'parasitism' and behaviour which didn't conform with 'socialist norms'. In the middle of the trial the prosecutor must have realised that such charges no longer had any validity. Thus they switched the charges to other public order offences. This meant that the original written testimonies given by the witnesses were for different offences - and so no longer valid. However, they still proceeded with the trial."

This point and other alleged irregularities were discussed in detail in yesterday's edition of *Romania Libera*, widely believed to be the only truly independent daily national newspaper. By contrast *Adevartul* - which used to be *Scinteia*, the Communist Party paper - reported none of these doubts. Neither did Romanian television.

Meanwhile, in what appears to have been a spectacular error, Rompres, the state news agency, reported that General Mihai Chiriac, the Minister of the Interior has told Romania's provisional Parliament that the 38 had been convicted "several hours before they were". In a telephone interview

a nervous-sounding Mr Romeo Nadasan, General Secretary of Rompres, said: "It was an error of translation... into both French and English... the statement should have said: 'The 38 suspected of being guilty' not 'found guilty'."

General Chiriac was unavailable for comment but Mr Mircea Dinescu, the former dissident, who was in Parliament, said he believed the fault lay with Rompres.

Despite this error there is a widespread belief in Bucharest that those on trial were innocent scapegoats. Many people think that the real trouble-makers - those who broke windows and doors - were never arrested.

Octavian Farcasescu, aged 20, one of the 38 who was convicted, said: "I just went into the building out of curiosity. Later I was arrested and knocked unconscious. Under arrest, I was never allowed to call my family or a lawyer. I was only charged after 72 hours instead of the statutory 24."

He says he intends to appeal against his conviction and fine.

The Government appears to be consolidating its law-and-order crackdown. Late on Friday, the National Salvation Front-dominated Parliament agreed on new penalties for public order offences, including illegal entry into government buildings.

Officials held: Three top officials of the former Romanian regime, all members of the Communist Party executive political committee, have been arrested and will be tried for complicity in genocide, *Romania Libera* said yesterday (AFP reports). One of the three, Mr Paul Niculescu Mizil, had been named Secretary of State for Co-operatives on December 24, after the overthrow of Ceausescu, and was a prosecution witness in the first public trial of four figures of the ousted regime.

# Bush and Kohl agree on German status in Nato

Continued from page 1  
in this way. Everyone is now coming along with us."

At Camp David Mr Bush said the US considered the existing borders of Germany and Poland to be inviolable. Herr Kohl said that the border question was a matter that had to be settled by a freely-elected parliament of both German states. But he acknowledged that Germany had a "certain history", had to take account of the fears of its neighbours. He insisted: "Nobody has any intention of linking the question of national unity with changes of existing borders."

Asked repeatedly by reporters about fears that a united Germany could become a resurgent military power, Herr Kohl retorted sharply that this is not 1945, this is 1990.

He said that for 40 years West Germany had demonstrated its commitment to democracy and stability, and that in 1983 he had personally risked his political career by accepting US nuclear weapons on German soil. He asked not to be lectured about reliability, and also insisted that Germany had no desire to develop its own nuclear capability.

He stressed Germany's desire for much closer integration of Europe, recalling the isolation of the pre-war Weimar Republic, saying: "We don't wish to repeat the



Herr Helmut Kohl, left, the West German Chancellor, outlining his vision of one Germany to President Bush and Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State.

errors of history." He added: "The alliance of the free democracies in Europe and North America... are of fundamental importance for peace and security. This is true now; this will be true in the future." Describing the Euro-

pean Community as an "indispensable anchor of European civility", he also called for expanded and accelerated European integration beyond economic and monetary union to political union. Mr Bush made no secret of his

enthusiasm for reunification. Asked about the British and French desire for caution, he said he believed the Nato allies would "rejoice" in what he and Herr Kohl had agreed. There were "nuances of difference" within Nato but the

main point was that there was "so much common ground". Mr Bush said that, having spoken to Mrs Thatcher, he intended to speak to President Mitterrand of France later yesterday.

Both leaders spoke warmly of the frankness of their discussions and of the growing strength of US-German relations. By doing so they implicitly underscored the cooling of relations between London and Washington.

# Sofia protest at slow reform pace

Sofia (Reuters) - More than 80,000 Bulgarians, frustrated with the slow pace of reform, yesterday staged the largest anti-Communist protest since the ousting of Mr Todor Zhivkov, the veteran leader, in November.

The crowd, which packed a square and side streets near party headquarters in Sofia, waved banners with slogans such as "Enough nightmares!" and "Liberty, freedom, justice!" Others chanted "Down with the Bulgarian Communist Party!"

Leaders of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), which had organized the rally, were cheered by a growing crowd of all ages as they called for an end to Communist rule.

Bulgaria's new Communist leaders, who ousted Mr Zhivkov less than four months ago, have renounced

their automatic right to rule and begun talks with the once-banned opposition groups.

But the UDF, which unites 13 leading opposition groups, says the party is dragging its feet over much-needed economic reforms and delaying changes needed to give the opposition a fair chance in the country's first free elections in four decades, due in late May.

PRAGUE: President Havel of Czechoslovakia addressed a crowd of around 100,000 people from the balcony of the Kinsky Palace - where 42 years earlier the country's first Stalinist president, Klement Gottwald, announced the end of democratic government in the country (AFP reports).

Paraphrasing Churchill's promise of "blood, sweat and tears", Mr Havel stopped two-thirds short. "There will be sweat flowing, but no blood this time," he said.

# Syria blames Aoun

Damascus (AFP) - General Michel Aoun was behind a gunboat attack on Baroness-M, a passenger ferry off Lebanon, which killed a passenger and wounded 25 other people, Syria's official Sana news agency has claimed, quoting foreign media sources in Cyprus.

Crewmen and passengers on the Baroness-M, as well as Cypriot police, said a Syrian warship had shelled the ferry, which was heading from Larnaca in Cyprus to the Lebanese Forces-controlled port of Jounieh, north of Beirut.

# Spy trial delay

The trial in Iraq of a British nurse and an Iranian-born journalist on spying charges has been postponed for two weeks, the British Foreign Office said.

# Pertini dies

Rome (Reuters) - Sandro Pertini, Italy's former President who won the respect of the nation, died yesterday, aged 93.

Obituary, page 16

# Ceasefire deal

Port Moresby (Reuters) - The Papua New Guinea Government has negotiated a ceasefire with secessionist rebels on the South Pacific island of Bougainville.

# Shuttle retrial

Cape Canaveral (Reuters) - Nasa has prepared the space shuttle Atlantis for another launch today, hoping the problem which grounded the shuttle 31 seconds before blast off has been solved.

# Ship protest

Copenhagen (AP) - Anti-nuclear activists tried to prevent a British aircraft carrier from entering Copenhagen harbour on Saturday.

# Victims freed

Bogota (Reuters) - Guerrillas freed two Americans they abducted early last week to protest against President Bush's visit to Colombia.

# Poll failure

Athens - Parliament has failed again to elect a new Greek head of state to succeed President Sartzetakis.

# Minister out

Karachi - Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has removed Mr Qaim ali Shah, the Chief Minister of Sind province.

# Twins are 100

Carpentras (Reuters) - French twin sisters have celebrated their 100th birthdays in this southern French town.

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MONDAY PAGE

# One voice against the Mob

Why did a grandmother spend four years studying godfathers? James Bone meets Claire Sterling, an expert on the "totalitarian dictatorship" of the Mafia

**Y**ou can see it in her determined eyes, her radiant skin, her quick step and upright stance: Claire Sterling is one of those irrepressible journalists driven by the energy of disillusioned idealism.

A child of the Depression, she saw her father, a well-heeled New York leather merchant, crippled by the economic downturn. Like many of her generation, she turned to the Communist Party. With the Cold War just beginning, the party quickly found her a job as a trade union organizer and set about using her to consolidate its power.

"My experience in the trade union movement, watching the manipulation at work, was very shocking to me, so there was a quick break between me and the communists," Sterling says. "But it was an invaluable political experience. It gave me the possibility to understand how things worked behind the scenes in ways it is difficult for an outsider to know." As a result, much of the rest of her life has been spent unravelling great conspiracies.

She moved to Italy in the early 1950s and among the books to issue from the hill-top retreat in Tuscany she shares with her novelist husband (nearest neighbour Germaine Greer) have been an investigation of the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II, which she attributes to a convoluted plot by the Bulgarian Secret Service and Turkish organized



Conspiracy theorist: Claire Sterling outside a New York steakhouse once the site of a Mafia killing

crime, with the blessing of the KGB, and a study of the labyrinthine world of international terrorist groups.

Now 70, bronzed and quick thinking, Sterling says with conviction: "I really don't have a passionate love of conspiracy... but I know a conspiracy when I see one."

That much is clear simply from *The Mafia*, her latest book, which has just been published in Britain. In America it was published as *Octopus*, a slang name for the Sicilian Mafia (*La Piovra* in Italian - also the title of one of Italy's most successful television series, a soap opera of Mafia life). In the fast-paced prose of a veteran reporter, it recounts how a gang of brutal and sophisticated Latin rogues, grown rich on profits from the international heroin trade, has spread its tentacles worldwide - Britain included.

Seated in the corner of an expensive Italian restaurant in midtown Manhattan, her back planted firmly against the wall facing the door in the best Mafia tradition, Sterling talks about them with contempt. "I have absolutely no political ideology, no political affiliations of any kind. The one political feeling that has guided me always has been freedom," she says. "I know that's a cliché. But living in Italy I can see the Mafia use violence to limit our freedom for totally criminal purposes."

"It's really a totalitarian dictatorship in the underworld. It uses the same kind of terrorizing threat to bend a whole political class to its will."

The book traces the Mafia's operations from its origins among the *picciotti*, the young peasants, half-brigand, half-rebel, who supported Garibaldi and his Red Shirts in 1860 (and became known as Garibaldi's *squadra della mazzetta* to the "Men of Honour" who instigated the great Sicilian Mafia war which broke out in Palermo in March 1981. Wealth - the drug trade had

writing about the Mafia. As a Rome-based correspondent for an American journal, she spent years covering wars in Algeria, the Congo, the Middle East, and Nigeria.

"I know what the basic rules are when you are writing about the Mafia," she says. "You don't tell lies. You don't distort. You tell what you think is the truth and you try to get it published before it attracts too much attention."

Sterling says the Sicilian crime families moved into London halfway through the 1970s and she considers the British response to their menace particularly lackadaisical. Scotland Yard shrugged off warnings about Mafia penetration into Britain (although the Customs & Excise took the threat more seriously) until the arrest in December 1984 of Francesco Di Carlo and three accomplices for a 60kg heroin shipment to Montreal - part of the Mafia's scheme to use Commonwealth privileges to move drugs from Thailand through India, Britain and Canada, into the United States.

By the time Di Carlo was sentenced in 1987, however, four-fifths of the heroin flowing through the British pipeline was for domestic consumption and the Mafia had 50 top-level functionaries running not only its money-laundering operation but a multi-million pound cocaine ring.

A similar fate threatens Europe as a whole with the unification of the European Community in 1992, Sterling warns. "The Mafia are said to have \$35 billion (£20.5 billion) a year to play with," she says. "When they can move that amount of money all over Europe without customs controls and with police forces whose tactics are not coordinated, it's a very frightening prospect."

Her experience of human nature teaches her that there is little prospect that her warnings will be heeded. "When something looks too big and looks like too much of a conspiracy to seem normal people say, 'Oh, that can't be true' and they back off, because it's too hard to take. There is no easy solution to it, if there is a solution at all, so they take shelter in disbelief... usually uninformed disbelief, unfortunately."

● The Mafia, the long reach of the international Sicilian Mafia, is published by Hamish Hamilton (£15.99).



They say one of the Lady Members got in early and rearranged the furniture - Lee, *Evening News*, October 21, 1937

## Politics and child's play

If the Palace of Westminster really does house the mother of parliaments, isn't it time they had a crèche?

**I**n 1968, the then Liberal MP for Ryedale, Elizabeth Shields, asked the House: "Bearing in mind there is a barber's shop, would it not be possible to have a ladies' hairdressing salon?" She recalls: "There was a silence. Then the men burst out laughing."

An early-day motion on a matter of real importance to working women has been circulating in the House for MPs to sign. Entitled "Facilities for Children in the Palace of Westminster", it has been proposed by Joan Walley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent North, and eight other women Labour MPs.

It asks Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Leader of the House, to allocate space and facilities in the new building to meet the needs of children aged up to 14. The Commons houses a rifle gallery, chess room, smoking room, gymnasium and a barber selling male requisites. There is no chemist, crèche, children's room or women's hairdresser. Finding one of the rare women's lavatories is an acquired art.

There are no plans in sight for a crèche, even for the new office building planned to open nearby in 1992.

Walley has two young children, Daniel, aged six and Tom, aged eight. "Parliament is so much a part of our lives it should be organized to make our children feel welcome when they visit us. When Tom was five he came with me to collect my coat. I was told by the cloakroom attendants to take him out. I refused. Next day a notice went up saying pointedly 'Members are reminded that Members only are allowed into the cloakroom'."

She waged an 18-month crusade just for a room where children could be made to feel welcome, to be told by the then Sergeant at Arms, Sir Victor Le Fanu, that "no space can be made available."

"Sir Victor then launched into a lecture on how his wife hadn't gone out to work until their children were grown up, and really there shouldn't be a need for this kind of thing," she says.

Sir Charles Irving, Conser-

vative MP for Cheltenham, is Chair of the Commons Catering Committee, and has transformed the Commons shop into a profitable enterprise with a turnover of £1 million. You can buy House of Commons whisky, House of Commons chocolate and House of Commons humbugs. But Irving admits defeat when it comes to selling tights. "In response to repeated requests from women MPs two years ago," he says, "the committee discussed it several times but nobody could decide where to print the portcullis logo on the tights."

Even if the male hierarchy running the building understood women's needs - and patently they do not - the committee machinery overseeing any metamorphosis is complicated. Indeed, no one can recall how it works. "Institutional changes are a matter for the House Procedural Committee," Sir Geoffrey Howe said. "Other changes are a matter for the New Building Sub-Committee, or the Catering Sub-Committee, which are separate from the House of Commons Commission..."

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, has no doubt about what is wrong: "The place really needs a dynamic chief executive who'll get on with things."

Speed does not seem to be a factor in making the House more woman-friendly. The monumentally patient Howe is himself author of two feminist treatises, "Fair Share for the Fair Sex" and "Opportunity for Women". He is also the husband of Elspeth Howe, a staunch advocate of equal rights. But he says: "It requires more mobilization and patient address to the people you must get on your side, which is why a growth in the number of women MPs is a most important part of this."

Walley puts it down to a lack of will. "When it suited them, they quickly found the space for television. They could do the same for children."

Lesley Abdela  
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

## A woman mixing it with the boys

**T**he ideal posture for a *GQ* editor, surely, is the estate agent stance: hand clasped behind the back of the neck, legs splayed and telephone cradled under a jutting, stubbled chin.

Alexandra Shulman has spent two weeks in the job. Biology prevents her from thrusting a stubbled chin, and the rest of it she either declines to adopt or has not yet found the confidence to do so. Instead, she shelters behind a drab desk in a modest office within Vogue House, explaining her appointment as female editor of a men's magazine in a manner which is both open and articulate.

Were you surprised to be offered the job, I ask, and for a moment she speaks, out of character, like a woman negotiating a minefield. "*GQ* wasn't a magazine that I'd thought of... I mean, obviously I automatically considered myself a controversialist. I don't remember servitude."

With that neologism, she remembers who she is, laughs and recovers. Despite the pessimism with which media watchers greeted the launch of general-interest men's magazines in this country, their influence has spread. Young boners, ageing rock stars, the boy on the supermarket checkout, even Labour back-benchers; they all show signs of having perused either *GQ* or *Arena* and they

apply the lifestyle guidelines with varying degrees of flash or good taste.

British men have a new image. They dress well. They have discovered unrestrained vanity, grooming, perfuming and confidence. Sensitivity has been added to the agenda, and we have the cliché of the bunk who combines rippling deltoids with ownership of a new-born baby.

Shulman, aged 32, has two angles on this phenomenon. As a member of an absurdly dynamic family (father, Milton Shulman, mother, sister and brother all in the media) she inevitably latches on to the thrills of a new niche in the magazine market. Thanks to an education in social anthropology at Sussex, she also exercises the intellectual detachment of people-watching.

She sees women of her generation holding a different attitude to men. "There has been a kind of acceptance of the shift, now," she says. "Before, there were battles and everybody was unsure."

A less optimistic view exists, of course, which perceives battles still in progress, but on a more subtle, deadly level. At their worst, the magazines for men reflect a desire to enjoy six-packs and spirituality. Money, fulfillment, caring sensitivity, machismo, sport, art, non-sexist pornography, custody of the children; let's have the lot.

**How will Alexandra Shulman tackle the esoteric challenge of editing a men's mag?**



Image maker: Alexandra Shulman

Putting a woman at the head of *GQ* may throw the more hypocritical aspects of this new man into perspective. But Shulman is rigorously diplomatic about a topless feature in the current issue - prepared before she took over - with its creakingly lecherous coverline waffling about "the alluring geometry of the female form". She would have run the feature, she insists, but

perhaps not in quite the same way.

The identity of the *GQ* reader must be uppermost in her mind. "They are mainly between 20 and 40," she says. "They're professional, mainly. Urban, mainly. Intelligent and bright and interested in learning and in watching what other people are doing. They're not captains of industry, but I should think a lot of them would like to be. They spend a lot of money. They are consumers. I suspect the majority of them are single. I don't think they're drifters. I think they're targeted, ambitious, middle-class."

Is this composite creature the sort of man that interests her in a non-professional sphere? "I don't have a stereotype," she says. "I am very interested in people that are driven. Whatever it is - I don't mind if it's building the perfect bookcase - but they have that kind of energy about them."

One curious aspect of this struggle for the body and emotions of the new man is that both main contenders, *GQ* and *Arena*, are part of the Condé Nast group. At the end of 1988, the publisher of *Arena*, Nick Logan, sold 40 per cent of his company to Condé Nast. The two magazines cater for an overlapping market, with *Arena* appealing to a trendier, younger audience, and *GQ* aiming at the well-heeled mainstream. Their overlap intensifies the rivalry and Shulman

claims that *GQ* has now substantially overtaken *Arena*. Since the circulation figure of 58,000 she offers is lower than *Arena*'s last ABC audit of 59,729, there is clearly scope for controversy.

*GQ*'s previous editor, Paul Keers, left suddenly, apparently leaving only his crocodile-skin Filofax. In America, *GQ* has a huge readership, but the territory in this country has barely been mapped. At present, British *GQ* has a masculine, consumerist feel, which is not a million air miles removed from the free glossy magazines distributed by American Express and the major banks. It will surely be Shulman's task to shift this emphasis - without alienating the mainstream; already she is talking about increasing *GQ*'s coverage of politics and current affairs.

Her background should be broad enough. It includes stints with two record companies and posts on a variety of magazines, notably the *Tatler* and *Vogue*. A former colleague of hers describes her as "a great persuader, she's terribly sweet and boys love her". Symbolically, there are few clearer examples of a woman achieving success in a man's world than the editorship of *GQ*. To stay captain at *GQ*, she will have to make the boys, and men, love her as never before.

David Toop

## A country touch turns gold

**Japanese seeking quintessential English decor turn to an urban empire built on an Edwardian lady's country sketches**

**T**o you and me, it may just be a sweet little book of flower paintings, but to a lot of people *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* means money.

Since Edith Holden's nature notes were published in 1978, 72 years after they were written, *Country Diary* merchandise has evolved into a £294 million empire.

With the publication this Thursday of *The Country Diary Book of Decorating English Country Style*, yet another spin-off is added to a

range of nearly 1,000 products including sheets, pillowcases, wallpaper, tooth mugs, biscuit tins, furnishing fabrics, paper plates, sofas, greeting cards - and diaries, of course. They sell well in Japan, America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and in Britain alone, turnover exceeds £38 million a year.

The man behind this extraordinary empire is Nigel French, the urbane, fast-talking son of the French of London hairdressing family, who, in 1978, became principal licensee of Country Diary products.

French's office is on the trendy Chancery Wharf estate in Hammersmith; one expects, if not roses round the front door, at least sprigs and swags about the interior, but his studio is austere, modern, tasteful and sparsely adorned. The only clue that the people who work here have even seen

the country is a silver dish full of pine cones and dried leaves. "We saw a fashion for floral prints and nostalgia through the Eighties, and, building upon it, a trend to bring the outdoors indoors," he says. "People who live in town now want to bring a bit of the country into their home."

Some of the hottest sales are in Japan, selling the style in colours none of us would favour. French says: "They go for sickly-sweet ice-cream colours that are not popular in Britain, so we have adapted the designs to suit them. As far as they're concerned, it's the quintessence of British style."

The author of the new decorating book is Sydney Sykes, who is also the design director of Dorna, biggest of all Country Diary licensees and therefore most likely to profit from the book's publication, though the jacket refrains from telling us so.

Since French takes a 2 to 3 per cent royalty from each sub-licensee, his company also has a vested interest in the book, and he would be the last person to worry about it being seen as a promotional vehicle in the US, where he spent the best years of his working life, getting a book that pushes your merchandise published free of charge instead of having to fork out for a catalogue would be considered exceptionally good business.

French's home is an 18th-century rectory in Somerset, where he assures me 80 per cent of the homes have a Country Diary bedroom or kitchen. Including his own? "My own house is very conservatively decorated, with a Chinese and Filipino influence. I would be hard-pushed to think what Country Diary merchandise we would have down there... I know," he exclaims triumphantly, "we have a cake tin."

● The Country Diary Book of Decorating English Country Style is published on Thursday by Webb & Bower at £15.95. Anthea Gerrie  
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

### Pick of the Week



Archibald Thorburn: Mallard coming in from the Sea, signed and dated 1905, watercolour and bodycolour, 30 x 22 in. Estimate: £12,000-18,000

## CHRISTIE'S

**T**HIS OUTSTANDING WORK by Archibald Thorburn is one of twenty by the artist included in the sale of Drawings, Watercolours and Pictures of Birds at Christie's, King Street on Friday, 2 March at 11.00 a.m. Archibald Thorburn (1860-1935) was probably the most accomplished bird painter of the 20th century, and has had a profound influence on many other English artists who have specialised in this popular theme. The sale will include a variety of subjects, such as game birds, waterfowl and birds of prey, by a wide range of artists including Philip Rickman, George Edward Lodge, John Cyril Harrison and Winifred Austen. For further information on this and any other sales in the next week, please telephone (01) 839 9060.

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# TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

With American television now carrying some sort of award ceremony almost every night, I hear that the grand-daddy of them all is going into orbit in an attempt to hang on to its dwindling TV audience. The Oscar presentations in April will not be confined to Los Angeles; the statues will be handed out simultaneously in all countries with a winning film, actor, director or other production worthy.

The logistics, though, are likely to prove a nightmare: to achieve simultaneous prime-time screening across America, winners in London will have to rise at about three in the morning, at which time they are unlikely to be in a fit state to bear the weight of an Oscar, let alone find an audience with which to celebrate. Moreover, the most hotly-tipped of this year's British nominees is the veteran actress Jessica Lundy, who has lived in America these last 50 years. Is she really likely to want to return to the land of her birth merely to get up in the middle of the night for an award?

The news this weekend that *A Chorus Line* is to close on Broadway after 15 years and rather more than 6,000 performances could have a devastating effect on Joseph Papp's Public Shakespeare Festival, which relied on it for a subsidy of \$1 million a year. In much the same way, the Royal Shakespeare Company in London will have to start worrying sooner or later about how to replace its £1 million annual income, though one that is likely to last another few years, from *Les Misérables*. Somehow I don't see *A Chorus Line* outliving the decade. Meanwhile, as if to prove that old dance routines never die, there are already plans to reopen *A Chorus Line* in some small off-Broadway house and try to beat the 30-year record there of *The Fantasticks*.

One of the many sociological points about modern Britain raised by Linda Christmas in a new voyage of exploration around the country is that we are no longer as arts-orientated as we once were. Her theory could hardly have been better proved than by at least two of the reviews of her book last week: both, though favourable, seemed totally mystified by her title: *Chopping Down the Cherry Trees*. Chelkova is presumably no longer much read by literary editors.

BARRY FANTONI



"So that explains the riddle 'Put it in the state, Dads, I'll pay you on Friday'."

However bad the arts crisis in this country, and there are signs that it will get still worse before it improves, some bleak consolation can be found in the observation that things are not a lot better in the United States, despite an apparently more robust economy and more generous corporate sponsors.

Over there at present it is the dance companies which are worst hit: Dance Theatre in Harlem starts a five-month lay-off next week as a search for new funding begins. The Dallas Ballet folded last year. To save money, the Alvin Ailey troupe has had to merge with the Murray Louis. Martha Graham has been laying off members of her resident company for the past three months because she cannot afford to pay them. Last year Twyla Tharp gave up her own management to work with American Ballet Theatre. The problem in each case is essentially the same: higher company budgets at a time when the real value of arts-endowment funding has dwindled because of inflation. In America, as in Britain, administrators are taking over from artistic directors as the crisis deepens.

West End Cares, the new AIDS-support organization of which I wrote a couple of weeks back, is to stage its first production at the Shaftesbury Theatre on March 25. A tribute to Ray Cook, the musical director who died last year, it will feature such varied dancing talents as those of Sir Kenneth Macmillan's Royal Ballet and the Peggy Spencer Latin Dance Team. Angela Lansbury may make a rare London stage appearance alongside other musical stars such as Petula Clark, Millie Martin and Maria Friedman, from the National's new Southend show, *Sunday in the Park With George*.

An uplifting Monday-morning, seven-column horizontal was on the cards at 1.25 pm on Saturday. In the Army Point-to-Point near Aldershot, a horse in which I have a small interest — like I own a leg — led the field after the first circuit. I was working on my speech of acceptance to New and Lingwood, shirtmakers, hosiers and shoemakers with traditions of excellence in bespoke and ready-made, who were presenting a memento value £50 to the winning owner, when it all went haywire: behind the hill, out of view of the stand, Lewkorn Ringrose — whose name you will not now have to remember — fell; as a result the horse is lame, his jockey dislocated a shoulder, suffered concussion and was taken to hospital, and for good measure his trainer was kicked and is substantially miffed. So I shall write about food.

The Valentine to Britain from Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing published on this page on February 14, was not very committal. Of course we recognize that the origins of the European Community lie in the determination of France and Germany after the Second World War never to allow another such conflict. But times move on. The failure of the two former leaders to come to terms with the requirements of the Europe of the 1990s is depressing.

It is true that, with the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the evolution of the Community is no longer dependent upon or merely a response to the Cold War. But those very changes emphasize the drive for freedom of choice and self-determination in Europe as a whole. That is a world away from the Schmidt-Giscard call for a European federal union which would be based on narrow French and German self-interest. Their article should raise concern about the federalists' motivation, for the threat of federalism is in many ways worse than the impetus for cen-

tralization coming from Jacques Delors and the Commission. The insistent claim of those espousing a federal Europe is that it would prevent a reversion to nationalism. But nothing is more likely to undermine a constructive approach to developing the EC as a framework for good relations between all 12 member states than the belief that it is based on a "Franco-German axis", as the former leaders put it, with the two countries "acting as one".

Indeed, it takes little imagination to recognize the dangers to the other member states, following the Single European Act, of a policy based on the economic and voting strength of these two nations. Those dangers would be all the greater when a reunified Germany makes a strong drive into East European markets. The authors recognize that

"the growth in economic power of the reunified Germany will have to be offset", but it is difficult to see how "the use of EC resources" can achieve this or can "accelerate the development of southern Europe so as to maintain the equilibrium between the different parts of the Community" without putting a severe strain on Britain, Holland, Denmark and the Benelux countries, particularly if France and Germany work closely together.

It is ironic that the cause of federalism should be promoted by such an outdated argument, for nothing is more likely than federalism to upset economic equilibrium and the balance of power in Europe. It is perhaps fortunate that, in common with their federal allies elsewhere in Europe, the authors are no longer in power. Theirs is a

Europe of the past, and judging from reports from Paris after President Mitterrand's dinner for Chancellor Kohl on February 15, their article by no means reflects current thinking in the Elysée Palace.

The development of Europe should take into account the interests of all EC states. The Community should take more freely within and outside the Community, eastwards and westwards, and should create alliances with East European countries. The new Europe should be based on freedom of choice and self-determination for all the nations of Europe, working together for peace and avoiding clusters or axes of the kind proposed by the Schmidt-Giscard article.

Many of the difficulties that France is now experiencing, including its over-dependence

on the Deutschmark, are the consequence of over-enthusiasm for a federal Europe which, even before reunification became a certainty, could not restrain the economic power of Germany. "Political engineering" of the federal kind advocated by Delors and repudiated by Britain is no substitute for the creation of a practical EC based on alliances between independent countries which remain primarily accountable to their national parliaments and electorates.

The European Community has much to offer each of its member states, but in the run-up to the intergovernmental conference after the East German elections next month, we must above all sustain a down-to-earth policy.

We could usefully propose an amendment to the European treaties to prevent the creation of

a federal system. Another amendment could diminish the expanding powers of the Commission, which, now that there is majority voting in the Council of Ministers, need to be restrained. The way to ensure that, in the words of Schmidt and Giscard, "Europe maintains the balance it vitally needs" is through economic co-operation and liberalization, not by the creation of a federal union with common foreign, military and security policies, a central bank and binding but unenforceable rules on budget deficits.

Nor should we endorse the doctrine of "subsidiarity", which, if made a legal rule and applied to a treaty amendment imposing monetary and economic union of the kind envisaged by the authors and the Commission, would relegate the Westminster Parliament and our government to provincial status.

In such a Europe the Franco-German axis advocated by Schmidt and Giscard would be a Pandora's box, not a Valentine. The author, MP for Stafford, is chairman of the Conservative Backbench Committee on European Affairs.

## William Cash replies to Schmidt and Giscard d'Estaing

# Grinding their own axis

## Mary Ann Sieghart asks if the Tories' mid-term slump has come too late

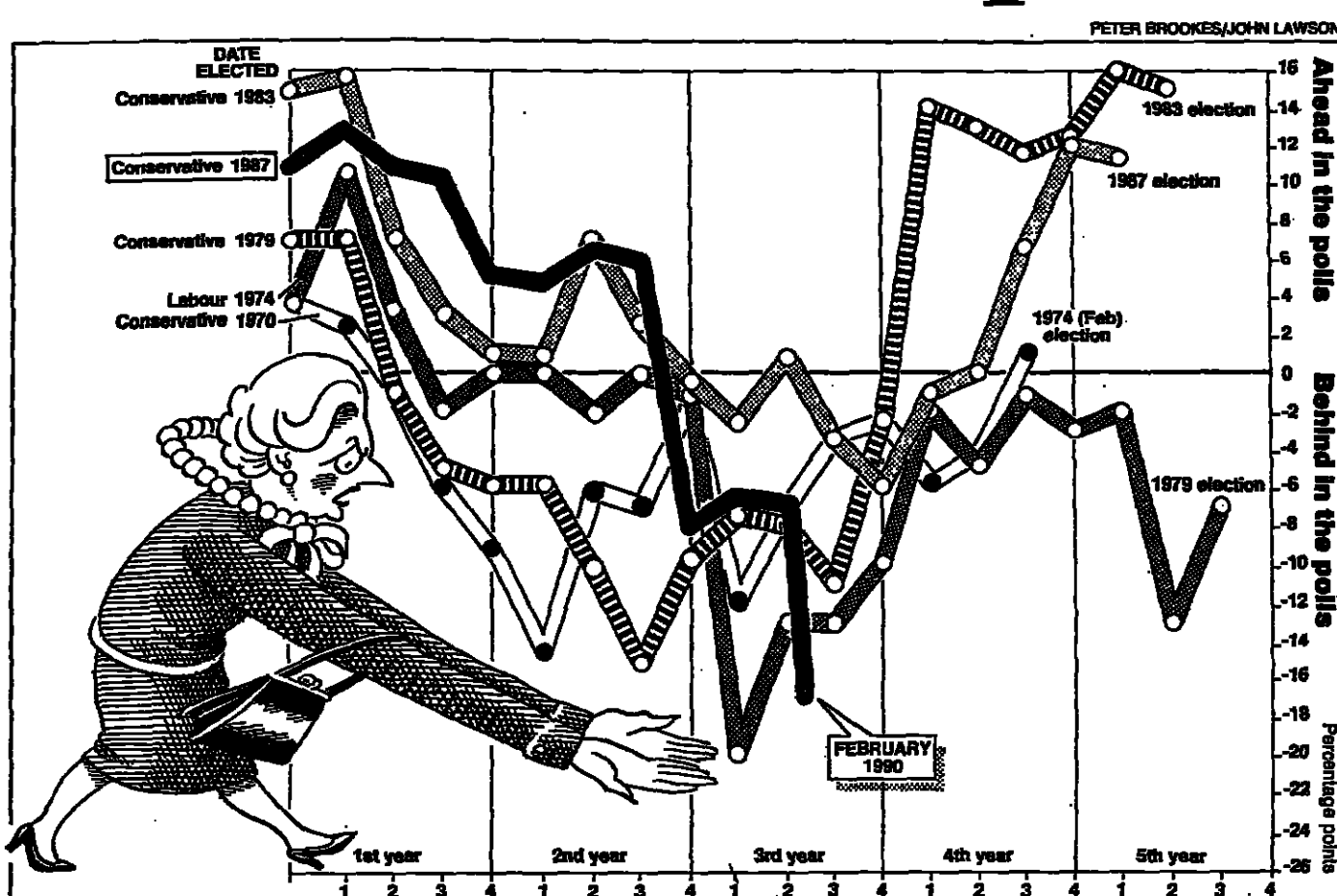
# Is there time to stop the rot?

Most governments lag in the polls for most of their time in office. They generally fall behind after a year, reach a nadir after another year and then swing back to popularity as the term nears its end. During the mid-term slump, their backbenchers become jittery and opposition parties do well enough in by-elections and local elections for pundits to back them (often misguidedly) for victory at the next general election. Is that all that is happening today?

Not quite. For this government has entered not a mid-term, but a late-term slump. It stayed too high in the polls for too long after the 1987 election. Its decline started a year too late, and it is now some time past the point at which its support should have been picking up: yesterday's MORI poll gives Labour a 17-point lead.

A look at the chart shows the problem. It plots the position of the governing party in the polls during each full term of office since 1970. The horizontal line shows the point at which a government leading in the polls is overtaken by the opposition. Three of the past four administrations lost their lead by the end of their first year; two of them reached their lowest point in their second year; the third (the 1974-79 Labour government) hit bottom during the first quarter of the third year and lost the next election. The exception is the 1983-87 government, which dipped below the line only twice, and then marginally. Now look at the black line, which represents this government's term so far. It shows that the Conservatives rode remarkably high for a full two years after the 1987 election, performing even better than during the same period in the previous term. Their support then began to slip, and even now, close to the end of their third year, they have perhaps not reached their lowest point, let alone begun to recover.

Why is the electoral cycle out



of synch? Mainly because of that second "wasted" year, when the Government did not need to be popular. The Tories stayed high in the polls for so long partly because Labour was going through a damagingly introspective period and the former Alliance was in tatters. But more, perhaps, because of the booming economy. In his anxiety to avoid a recession after the 1987 stock market crash, and in his enthusiasm to reach that shimmering target of a 25 per cent basic rate income tax in the 1988 Budget, Nigel Lawson forgot an elementary lesson of politics: let the economy slow down soon after an election so that it has time to pick up again before the next.

His largesse made people much more optimistic than usual about economic prospects. Each month MORI asks voters whether they think Britain's general economic condition will improve, stay the same or worsen over the next 12 months. It then subtracts the percentage of people who think it will worsen from the percentage who think it will improve to reach a net economic optimism index. If there are more optimists than pessimists, the figure is positive and vice versa.

For almost the entire 1979-83 term, the index was negative. It then became positive for the three months before the 1983 election. The same pattern held in the 1983-87 term: an immedi-

ate fall-away into pessimism which was righted only four months before the 1987 election. This government has engineered something quite different. The index was positive for a full year after the '87 election, finally slipping into the red in July 1988.

Until then, it had shown a remarkable correlation with voting intentions: the more optimistic voters were, the higher the Tory lead in the polls. (At the last election, MORI found a 90 per cent correlation between economic optimism and voting intentions among floating voters.) This time, it took 10 months for pessimism to turn into a Labour lead. But turn it did. Since May of last year,

Labour has been in the lead, the gap steadily widening.

The vital question now for Kenneth Baker, the Tory party chairman, as he plans the next election campaign is whether the time lag will affect the Tories on the way up too. If and when the index turns positive, how long will it take for the optimism to translate into a Conservative lead? Do the Tories have enough time to overtake Labour again this far into the electoral cycle?

He will have his work cut out. Mortgage rates are rising and will fuel inflation as measured by the retail price index. Labour may well overturn a majority of more than 14,000 at next month's Mid Staffs by-election. The poll tax is proving wildly unpopular, even

though, in England, the bills have yet to arrive. John Major cannot afford to be generous in the Budget. And the local elections in May are likely to favour Labour. All these factors point to a widening of Labour's lead.

To turn sentiment around, Baker must address his party's most unpopular policies. The poll tax cannot be withdrawn, but Chris Patten may find ways of mitigating its effect before the next election, either by squeezing more money out of the Treasury or by taking some expenditure out of local authority control.

The economy will be the most important factor. For 10 years Mrs Thatcher has staked her reputation on her ability to curb inflation. She would be reluctant to hold a general election with inflation above, say, 5 per cent. That means that interest rates — and therefore mortgage rates — must stay high until inflation starts to fall. While they stay high, the economic optimism index will almost certainly remain negative.

So Baker may be pushed for time. If interest rates start to come down this autumn, it will take some months before voters start feeling optimistic again about the economy. That optimism may then take several more months to feed through into support for the Tories. If everything goes well, he may be able to advise Mrs Thatcher to go to the country in autumn 1991. But it looks increasingly likely that against all his, and the Prime Minister's, better instincts, he will find himself boxed into an election in spring or early summer of 1992.

No government likes being forced to wait until the end of its five-year term before holding an election. For if the polls are still against it, it cannot wait until its position improves.

A week may be a long time in politics, but for Conservative strategists, two years is beginning to look disturbingly short.

# Tell us what you really think, Mr Patten

## Jack Straw challenges the minister in charge of instituting the poll tax

Despite the strident support he displays for the idea in public, I believe that Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, has serious doubts about the morality of the poll tax, as well as its political wisdom. Were he still a free man, on the back benches, he would, I warrant, be speaking against the tax and its iniquity in terms at least as strong as those of his soul-mate, Sir Ian Gilmour, who in January described the tax as "wholly unworkable".

As Andrew Roth's inestimable *Parliamentary Profiles* reminds us, Patten was a Gilmour protégé, or, in the words of *The Daily Telegraph*, one of the "wettest of the wets". He made no secret of this when he entered Parliament in 1979. One of the brightest of that intake, he was punished for his views and was passed over for preferment until 1983. Until then, as a free spirit, he could speak his mind — and he did. With clarity and conviction he joined Gilmour and others in a sustained campaign

against the Government's line on the economy. He mocked the use of monetary aggregates as a basis for policy. "It is not very sensible", he declared in a speech in November 1979, "to pin quite so much faith on a figure which, it sometimes seems, can be constructed with mirrors".

He was principal author of *Changing Gear*, a pamphlet from the "Blue Chip" group of young Tory MPs which castigated Thatcherism, spoke for one-nation Toryism, and began with a quotation from Harold Macmillan's 1981 invective against the Prime Minister on the centenary of Disraeli's death.

Patten is not only very bright; he is also a historian. So he must be well aware of the sad history of the poll tax in Britain, which seems to recur every three centuries. It was first tried in 1381. The Peasants' Revolt ensued, and a namesake of mine lost his head for leading part of

it. The tax did nothing to enhance Richard II's popularity, and was abandoned.

Charles I's Long Parliament had a go at a poll tax in 1641. By present standards it was sophisticated itself, since it was graduated according to one's station in life: £100 for a duke, £60 for a bishop, £10 for an esquire, £5 for a gentleman, 6d for everyone else over 16 except those in receipt of alms, and double for anyone who was a pauper. Nevertheless, that tax too collapsed because of administrative complications, and it certainly did nothing to improve Charles I's ratings in the opinion polls.

There is even at least one 20th-century example of a poll tax that levied by the British colonial administration on Africans in Nyassaland (now Malawi) from 1939, at a rate, by 1958, of 30 shillings per head. This tax was a replacement for the rate, or "hut tax" as it was known,

To prove a negative is a difficult matter. I cannot say with certainty that Mr Patten never made a speech in favour of the poll tax before he became Environment Secretary last year. What I can say is that I have read every speech of his that the Commons' library can trace, and surveyed every reference work, and have not found one use of the phrase "poll tax", let alone a speech in which he advocated it.

One speech, though, stands out as being highly relevant to the poll tax. He made it on November 11, 1981, in a debate on the economy. "Whatever one-nation policies mean," he said, "they clearly do not mean putting an excessive burden on the shoulders of the poor and worse-off, redistributing the burdens against them rather than towards them." I think he still believes that, and that he must suffer pangs of conscience whenever he contemplates the social

consequences of the poll tax.

Meins Road in Blackburn is a tree-lined street at the edge of town, overlooking pleasant countryside. It has large, detached houses, many built by cotton magnates for themselves. Not far away are Suffolk, Nantall and Blackburn streets — rows of 19th-century terraced houses, in the main also built by cotton magnates, but for their workers. The rates bill this year for a house in Meins Road is £1,747 (and in 10 years as the town's Labour MP I have had no complaints from such streets about the rates being too high). On the terraced houses, the rates are between £150 and £200 a year. These rates are low by national standards, but Blackburn is one of the lowest-waged areas in the country.

Blackburn's poll tax will be £365 per head. A couple living in Meins Road will save £1,000 a year — £1,000 which they do not

need. A couple living in Suffolk Street, say, will have to find an extra £500 or more, which they probably cannot afford. (They would be more than £350 worse off even if the tax were set at Mr Patten's level of £278.) Such couples — even with two children — will receive no rebate if their joint income is more than about £170 a week.

The poll tax is a flat rate tax. Inescapably, inexorably, it means, in Mr Patten's words, "putting an excessive burden on the shoulders of the poor and the worst off, redistributing the burdens against them rather than towards them". As the once very dry Sir Rhodes Boyson has said, the poll tax is not only "politically disastrous" but "morally wrong". Few measures by this government are more likely to divide Britain and undermine that vision of a united nation for which Chris Patten stood (and may still stand). Few spectacles are less edifying than that of a minister supporting a cause which is not his own.

# Aiming to be the rage of the train

What a rotten thing it is that while inventors of the steam engine or the telephone become rich and famous, you can now invent a soup that is more delicious and original than any other soup... and get nothing. One cannot patent a soup when you find your soup on someone else's menu, there does not even have to be an acknowledgement — though when punters complain because it has not been properly made, they are likely to be told: "Actually it is one of Freud's."

In 1712 Walt Percy, Earl of Northumberland and lecher of note, was fondling a serving wench when his man brought dinner of roasted swan and potatoes. Reluctant to withdraw his right hand from the girl's bosom, he ate with his left — pulping the tubers with his fork. Mash Percy, as he became known — though "masher" to denote lady-killer did not enter the national vocabulary until some 150 years later — is now remembered for mashed potatoes. And I'm jealous that the 4th Earl of Sandwich gets credit for the concoction that bears his name. Having asked for beef



CLEMENT FREUD

between slices of bread so that he could continue a gaming session, he is famed as the creator of the sandwich. I would suggest that "man does not live by bread alone" (Deuteronomy) was an

early reference to sandwiches; later in the good book there is mention of loaves and fishes — the constituents of a tuna butty.

And it came to pass that last week I lunched with the head of British Rail's InterCity service, and when I talk to a railwayman the conversation inevitably turns first to my grandfather, Signalman Freud, then to railway food and the fact that one can now get scrambled eggs with smoked salmon for breakfast. We moved on to safer ground: sandwiches. The British Rail sandwich has improved greatly, insisted the head of InterCity. I murmured about a recent purchase of Roast Chicken with Sage Stuffing,

£1.25; the label depicted two thick slices of succulent chicken breast. The content was a scant half ounce of crushed flesh, flecked with flavoured breadcrumbs, lightly strewn upon a piece of white bread, covered with another that had not encountered butter either.

The head of InterCity asked whether I would care to "invent" a sandwich for them, and on Wednesday morning I was sent nine sandwiches in a cardboard box, so that my quest for the new product would take into account what was already on sale.

So I say unto you that Cheese Ploughman, £1.35, is excellent, a real sandwich made with malted

brown bread, farmhouse cheese, pickle with a zing, BLT (bacon, lettuce and tomato), also on malt bread, is all right, the smokiness of the bacon giving the sandwich a very pleasant taste — butter would have made it better. Egg and Cress was depressing, Turkey and Ham deadly dull with a cheesy flavour that came from the "lemon mayonnaise". Large Prawn was generous with the prawn but badly needed Cayenne pepper, Tuna and Cucumber was acceptable, though the cucumber was crunched.

InterCity's sandwiches are very much better than they were and Cheese Ploughman is a star. When my corned beef with green tomato chutney and my fresh salmon and dill mayonnaise join the range, people might indulge in rail travel for the sheer fun of it rather than because they want to get to Birmingham.

Pennington

AVO

In the first few months of the Soviet Union's existence, a number of decisions were taken which were to have a profound effect on the country's future. The first of these was the decision to adopt a policy of non-alignment. This was a decision which was to have a profound effect on the country's future. The second was the decision to adopt a policy of economic reform. This was a decision which was to have a profound effect on the country's future. The third was the decision to adopt a policy of political reform. This was a decision which was to have a profound effect on the country's future.

CHALLENGE

High Court judge Lord Goff has said that the Government's policy of non-alignment is a challenge to the world's superpowers. He said that the Government's policy of non-alignment is a challenge to the world's superpowers. He said that the Government's policy of non-alignment is a challenge to the world's superpowers.

ANXIETY

Government politicians in the UK are anxious to avoid a general election in the autumn. They are anxious to avoid a general election in the autumn. They are anxious to avoid a general election in the autumn.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## A VOTE FOR LIBERTY

In the first free multi-party elections in the Soviet Union since 1917, Lithuanian voters have given the national front, Sajudis, a decisive victory. A first-round tally of 72 seats in the 141-member parliament could well translate into 95-100 after run-off polls — and more, if members of the independent wing of the Communist Party standing on the Sajudis ticket break their formal links with the party.

The result, while hardly unexpected, deals a severe blow to Mr Gorbachev's hopes of slowing down the independence process in the Baltic — and maybe elsewhere as well. There was a widespread belief, both in Moscow and among a number of Lithuanian Communists, that the close integration of the Baltic republics into the Soviet economy, and their economic weakness on the world stage, gave the Kremlin considerable room for manoeuvre.

Now, however, the new Lithuanian government is bound to press for the rapid establishment of economic sovereignty, as the precondition for full Lithuanian independence. The drastic weakening of the Communist Party, despite the popularity it gained by breaking with Moscow last month, deprives the Kremlin of any real hold over the future Lithuanian government — apart of course, from the threat of various kinds of pressure: economic, ethnic, or in the last resort, military.

The outcome in Lithuania will be discouraging to the Communist Parties in other Soviet republics. Even by splitting from its Soviet parent, and adopting a largely new top leadership, the Lithuanian Communist Party was unable to cancel out popular memories of the role it played through 50 years of Soviet rule. Communist party leaderships in other Soviet republics are likely to conclude that whatever they do, their parties as such are doomed to ultimate extinction.

The example of the Baltic, however, shows that the bureaucratic and industrial structures of power created by the communists will take much longer to dissolve. Calls to expel all communists from public life are impractical, and for this reason have been restricted to the more extreme nationalist groups.

Continuity is not only inevitable, but necessary: effective new political classes

cannot be created out of the air. In the case of the Baltic states, many technocrats were never in any real sense communists. But in the Russian republic, and other areas of the Soviet Union where the main issue is still reform rather than national independence, the inevitability of continuity at the lower levels of the ruling structures is discouraging. These are the people chiefly responsible for frustrating Mr Gorbachev's attempts at economic reform.

Over the next few weeks, Lithuania's progress towards independence is likely to revolve around two main issues. The first will be the Lithuanian rejection of any "law on secession" to emerge from the coming debates in the Supreme Soviet in Moscow. Basing their case on the illegality of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact under which Lithuania was annexed in 1940, the Lithuanians say that they were never legally a part of the Soviet Union in the first place.

That statement in itself does not make Lithuania independent, and the second issue, coming up in the next few weeks, puts it on collision course with one of the main pillars of the Soviet state. The refusal of thousands of young Lithuanians to serve in the Soviet army, which will certainly be backed by the new Lithuanian government, confronts Moscow with an issue on which there does not seem to be much room for compromise.

Baltic separatists claim that it would be in Moscow's interest to recognize their legal case for independence, because the Soviet leadership could then make a distinction between concessions made to the Baltic and those made to other Soviet republics. This argument is unlikely to convince the Kremlin. Other Soviet areas, too, were independent before their conquest by Russia, even if their standing under international law is not as strong as that of the Baltic states.

It will be increasingly hard, after this weekend's elections in Lithuania, to avoid the disintegration of the Soviet Union without the adoption of a truly federal structure. There is little sign that the Soviet leadership is prepared to accept so radical a transformation; but it cannot, after the result in Lithuania, dismiss the prospect from its mind.

## CHALLENGE TO PARENT POWER

The High Court ruling last Friday overturning a ministerial decision to allow a Bath school to opt out of local authority control is a blow to the Government's strategy of turning the running of schools over to parents and teachers. Parents' freedom to vote their children's schools out of the hands of local authorities has put them under the control of their governing bodies, along with the national curriculum, central to the aims of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The court decided that the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr John MacGregor, had acted unlawfully by failing to take account of the impact of his decision on Avon County Council's school reorganization plan. The case, the first of its kind, reveals a conundrum which must be solved if the policy of allowing schools to seek Grant Maintained Status is to succeed.

The problem is that large-scale reorganization of educational facilities has become essential, as a result of a demographic downturn which, according to the latest Government estimate, has created a surplus of 1.25m places in schools in England, costing the taxpayer £250m. Ministers have been exhorting local authorities to rationalize accordingly; they concede the case, but maintain that opting out places a "planning blight" on the state education system, because schools they decide to close will immediately seek to opt out.

The local authorities' resort to such arguments suggest that most are still unwilling to absorb the new philosophy which the Education Reform Act embodies. The fact that parents have had to use opting out as a weapon to prevent local authorities closing good and popular schools for the sake of administrative convenience demonstrates how little attitudes in Town and County Halls have changed.

There is little substance in claims that any school facing a reorganization can cut and run. Mr MacGregor and his predecessor have made it clear that opting out will not be an escape route for unviable schools. To qualify for direct funding, schools have to meet stringent criteria. By contrast, misplaced notions of egalitarianism can result in excellent schools facing closure merely because they have the misfortune to be sited in a middle class location. Many poorly run comprehensives survive reorganization despite appalling academic records.

Where the argument is genuinely about rational planning, local authorities' objections could be overcome by the provision of reasonable notice of a school's switch to grant-maintained status, thus avoiding the planning uncertainties of which Avon complained. In a few instances, delays in implementing a transfer might be needed to give local authorities time to rework their plans. The Government must not, however, retreat on the central principle of rebuilding independence in the state-funded school sector.

Political objections, however cloaked in the mantle of concern for proper planning, should be given no quarter. Local authorities who are unwilling to accept that parental choice ought to be the dominant factor in the survival of a school must not be allowed to use the Avon judgement to bring opted-out schools back under their control, or to intimidate parents and governors wishing to opt out.

This Government has not flinched in the past from resisting special pleading by entrenched local bureaucracies and it must not do so now. The concept of parental power needs unremitting support if it is to fulfil its potential for benefitting the education of children — for whom schools were created.

## ANXIETIES IN INDIA

India's mainstream politicians, in the Janata Dal minority government and in the opposition Congress (I) Party, approach tomorrow's state elections, involving 215 million Indian voters in eight Indian states and the territory of Pondicherry, with understandable nervousness. The Prime Minister, Mr Vishwanath Prasad Singh, could find himself in serious trouble if, as expected, the Hindu fundamentalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with which his Janata Dal is in uneasy coalition makes large gains in the north.

Hindu ascendancy also threatens Mr Rajiv Gandhi's political future. His Congress party now controls the government in all eight states but can hope, at best, to retain only one or two. More than personal political fortunes are at stake in these elections. The BJP already looks like the real power behind Mr Singh's throne and, if it does as well as expected, is likely to demand a review of the constitutional privileges of India's 100m Muslims as the price of its continuing support for the government. Were "Hindu fundamentalists" to become India's effective power-brokers, the secular nature of Indian democracy, the cement of national stability, would be put in question.

The Congress Party, already suffering a stream of defections since its defeat in national elections last November, has most at stake. A second crushing in India's northern "Hindu heartland" would leave it looking like a party of the South Indian rump. The authority of Mr Gandhi, already under attack, would disintegrate. Moves to oust him could however hasten the party's disintegration. That prospect might ensure his survival, but the myth of the Gandhi-Nehru family's political power would still have been shattered. After tomorrow, Mr Gandhi will be just another politician.

Mr Singh's prospects are brighter. He can expect to win Orissa comfortably and Bihar

with a little less ease. In Gujarat, his party could form a coalition government with its allies. Alongside Uttar Pradesh, that would give him control of India's two most populous and politically significant states.

Mr Singh's goal would then be to lure disillusioned MPs from the Congress (I) Party, to which he himself once belonged, to defect, thus reducing his dependence on the communist parties and, above all, on the BJP. That will be all the more important if, as expected, the BJP emerges the most significant victor, winning Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh outright, and sharing the spoils with Janata Dal in Gujarat and Rajasthan. The commercially critical state of Maharashtra, with its capital in Bombay, could also fall under its sway.

Mr Singh has, up to now, claimed that the integration of the BJP into India's political mainstream would moderate the party's Hindu ideology. For evidence, he can point to its help in defusing, at least temporarily, the Ayodhya temple-mosque dispute which enflamed Hindu-Muslim tensions late last year. BJP legislators, whose loyalty to their cause is unwavering, are however likely to see these elections as a mandate for a more muscular approach. That could hamper a settlement in Kashmir: popular Hindu resentment over the resurgence of secessionist pressures there has contributed heavily to the rise in the BJP's electoral popularity.

The immediate prospect is a period of greater disequilibrium before a new alignment of political forces emerges. The best outcome would be a viable two-party system based on Congress and Janata Dal and its allies. The likelihood is greater sectarian tension. The rise of militant Hinduism, upsetting the already delicate fabric of India's communal relations, marks a turning point in Indian politics.

## Stricter controls on house sales

From the Secretary-General of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors  
Sir, You recently reported (February 8) the National Consumer Council's call for increased regulation of estate agents, adding its powerful, independent voice to the case already made to Government by the professional bodies in property and by many others. The Government's much-vaunted study of the matter produced little more than a promise that more use would be made of the existing powers of the Director-General of Fair Trading.

Now, when the housing market is still falling from its peak and sales are difficult to achieve, a new range of abuses attracts attention. The professional bodies would be delighted to see more use made of the Director-General's existing powers to tackle unethical and damaging practices, such as the deliberate over-valuation of property in order to secure sale instructions. This would be a step in the right direction, but not a solution to the problem of unethical exploitation of people struggling to cope with the complexities of house purchase and sale.

This Government's legislation has made it mandatory for an agent selling a £1,000 life assurance policy to come within a new regulatory framework, but it is content for the agent selling the average consumer's £70,000 house to be unregulated. A government which has done so much to extend home ownership owes its citizens a duty of care in this field as much as in life assurance sales.

How many more organisations have to identify the need before the Government will act on it? The latest mortgage rate rises underline the public's need for help when involved in these complex transactions.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL PATTISON,  
Secretary-General,  
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,  
12 Great George Street,  
Parliament Square, SW1,  
February 16.

## Use of supertankers

From Mr H. W. Melrose  
Sir, Mr S. R. Thompson (February 20) stresses the reluctance of operators of computer-automated ships to use technology in the high-risk areas.

My company, BMT Cortec (formerly BSRA), carried out a great deal of research into the efficient ship in the early 1980s. The advantages of the study were viewed by operators in global terms as managing reductions versus operating costs and the advantages in safety through minimised risk were too readily discounted.

We have recently developed a ship manoeuvring simulator no bigger than three microwave ovens and available to be carried on the bridge of any ocean-going ship. It would allow all the bridge staff, not only the captain, to carry out a full mission rehearsal before undertaking a hazardous manoeuvre, be it a tight port or a rendezvous at sea. Prince William Sound no doubt wishes that such a facility had been available on Exxon Valdez!

The insurers should provide a premium incentive for vessels adopting high-technology solutions to reduce risks; only then will the operators' reluctance to purchase new technology be alleviated.

Yours faithfully,  
H. W. MELROSE  
(Managing Director),  
BMT Cortec Ltd.,  
Wallend Research Station,  
Wallend, Tyne & Wear.

## Nature conflict

From Mr Alexander R. Trotter  
Sir, Ian Prest (February 13) in picking three well publicised examples of conflict between development interests and conservation, gives the impression that the Nature Conservancy Council's Advisory Committee for Scotland has been at the helm since 1991 and 1992 are, or will be, unable to stand up to development pressure, unless directed to do so by a powerful United Kingdom joint committee.

It is exactly such policy development from the south, without regard for the concerns of the Scottish people, that has resulted in the resentment which has made it so hard to obtain more widespread support for conservation from the rural community. It would be disastrous to repeat this error.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. TROTTER (Chairman),  
NCC Advisory Committee for Scotland,  
12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh 9.

## Maritime accidents

From Mr Max Nicholson  
Sir, As the sorry tale continues of needless damage to marine waters, beaches, and wildlife by the irresponsible and unchecked operations of too many trading vessels, it is not time to ask, as the host country of the International Maritime Organisation of the United Nations, just what this costly organisation is doing about it?

Its recent track record suggests that the situation could hardly get worse if it were now abolished. At least a searching independent inquiry into its performance seems called for.

Yours etc.,  
MAX NICHOLSON,  
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

## Half-way point in apartheid struggle

From Sir Peter Fawcus  
Sir, It is generally agreed that the main purpose of sanctions against South Africa is to end apartheid in all its manifestations. The struggle against apartheid has reached a half-way point in which there are arguments for and against the retention of the different sanctions as a lever to bring about the remaining changes that are needed.

These arguments have recently been employed with great intensity on either side in Parliament and in the European Community Council of Ministers and have led to emotional and exaggerated statements such as the Irish Foreign Minister's allegation (report, February 21) that unilateral action by the UK to lift the ban on new investment would destroy the credibility of the Twelve's political co-operation and constitute a dangerous precedent.

This ban was imposed voluntarily in 1986, as Mr Waldegrave explained to Parliament (report, February 22), to encourage dialogue, that objective has been achieved to an extent unimaginable in 1986 and it was encouraging that a UDF (United Democratic Front) spokesman, Mr Patrick Lekota, on returning recently from Washington said (report, February 23), "When we are satisfied that the process of negotiation is in motion, we will consider with those calling for the lifting of sanctions. It is not in the UDF's interests to smash the South Africa economy."

The remaining legislative bastions of apartheid are the Land Act, the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act. The first two will have to go, but, at first, their repeal would hardly be noticed. It would enable a few wealthy blacks to buy white-owned farms in the rural areas and comfortable homes in the white suburbs, but the stark inequalities in living conditions and in the educational and health facilities of the whites and the vast majority of blacks will require more fundamental changes, and, above all, a stimulus to the economy resulting from massive new investment from outside.

The Population Registration Act will also have to go eventually, but it might be premature to repeal it when its registers could yet provide the basis for the representation of blacks in a transitional constitution.

The real need today is not for cosmetic changes enforced by outside pressures to demolish specific features of apartheid, but for early internal changes of fundamental importance that would enable black South Africans to play their part in the great task of building a non-racial state.

A common voters' roll in a unitary state would appear to be one possible outcome to the negotiations now about to begin, but that might take years to determine and even longer to achieve. Meanwhile the device of communal representation of the different racial groups, allowing for the election of MPs on separate voters' rolls, could be employed to recast the central institutions of power, replacing the tricameral legislature with one Parliament, composed of whites, blacks, Coloureds and Indians.

If this aim were to be accepted by the negotiators as their immediate task, requiring early decision and implementation, it would bring about irreversible political change, pave the way for much needed inter-communal co-operation, and lead perhaps to a universal demand from all South Africans for sanctions to be lifted.

If these changes were accompanied by free party political activity, they would also inspire added confidence in the country's prospects of political stability which would do more to encourage outside investment than the UK's removal of its ban.

Yours faithfully,  
R. P. FAWCUS,  
Dochart House,  
Kilwin, Perthshire.

personal understanding of social behaviour.

Yours faithfully,  
JANE WYNNE WILLSON,  
Chairman,  
British Humanist Association,  
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8.

From Dr Mary D. Stewart  
Sir, It is hoped that readers of your report on *Social Trends* will appreciate the distinction between your accurate headline, "Men blamed in more divorces", and "Men are to blame for more divorces", as some people might wish to deduce from the given figures.

Women may bring a petition for divorce on the grounds of unreasonable behaviour on the part of the spouse when the marriage is felt by both partners to be at an end for many reasons; but if the husband defends the suit, or brings a counter petition on the grounds of his wife's equally unreasonable behaviour, it will cost him a great deal in cash and in time, and will achieve nothing in saving a marriage that he too may have no desire to prolong.

Failure to defend is thus not necessarily an admission of "unreasonableness" and is certainly not proof of it. On the contrary it may stem either from a chivalrous intention to let the wife have the last word, or from sheer economic necessity.

Yours sincerely,  
MARY D. STEWART,  
7 Roseland Crescent,  
Merton, Middlesex, Cleveland.

The writer went on to say that his own researches at the Home Office indicated that the form was an abbreviation for an expression of loyalty and good will and he cited examples of petitions concluding with the words, "and your petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray for your excellent Majesty (1625)" and "Your Majesty's petitioners as in loyalty and duty bound, will ever most anxiously pray for your Royal Person (1842)." For my own part I am quite content to go on writing "etc." and leave the rest to the imagination.

Yours faithfully,  
HUBERT CHESHYRE,  
Chester Herald of Arms,  
College of Arms,  
Queen Victoria Street, EC4,  
February 16.

**Fighting drugs**  
From the Chairman of the Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism  
Sir, Norman Tebbit (article, February 20) and your other readers may be pleased to hear that this institute has already embarked on the first stages of a research project on drugs trafficking and narcotics. I am happy to say that we have been able to engage a researcher possessed of all the necessary qualifications (including personal courage), who will be able to call on the expertise as consultant of a leading authority in the field. We shall shortly be discussing the project with the relevant Government departments.

We of course have it in mind to liaise in this project with other countries concerned and it had not escaped us that this might with advantage include the Soviet Union.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK BRENCHLEY,  
Chairman,  
Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism,  
136 Baker Street, W1,  
February 20.

**Impartiality and BBC**  
From Dr John Keown  
Sir, Defending the BBC from Woodrow Wyatt's accusations of bias (article, February 13), John Birt asserted (article, February 19): "The BBC aspires to objectivity, not impartiality in all its programmes."

However, the very same day the BBC screened a *Horizon* programme which purported to "inform the debate on embryo research" with a report on how and why such research is done. The programme consisted of interviews with scientists and lay people in favour of destructive experimentation on embryos but not a single scientist or lay person who disputes their claims and favours alternative forms of research.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN KEOWN (Director),  
Centre for Health Care Law,  
University of Leicester,  
Faculty of Law,  
Leicester LE1 7RH.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01782 5046).

## Drawbacks of student loans

From the Director of Regent's College  
Sir, Now that the House of Commons has given a third reading to the student loans Bill and the opponents of the scheme have clearly lost the argument, it surely behoves those in education to press the Government for a more radical scheme.

The Government's proposals do nothing to change a situation where we have the most generous system in the developed world but for the smallest proportion of students. Our system compares very unfavourably with that in the USA, for instance, for three groups of students — those following courses in further or higher education which do not lead to a degree and part-time students (neither of these groups qualifies for mandatory grants) and potential graduate students who can only compete for a relatively tiny number of scholarships.

Aside from these neglected groups, there are many students theoretically covered by present arrangements, whose parents do not make up the grant. The modest loans now to be available will not help them very much. The opportunity to borrow larger sums, subject to some curbs to prevent wealthier parents from taking unnecessary advantage of cheap loans, should be made available.

In order to treat those groups more equitably resources will need to be spread more thinly. If the National Union of Students really seeks to represent all students, and not just the privileged undergraduates in universities and polytechnics, surely they should now be pressing for a fair distribution of the available funds.

Yours faithfully,  
J. G. KELLY, Director,  
Regent's College,  
Inner Circle,  
Regent's Park, NW1,  
February 20.

From Mr Giles P. T. Walker  
Sir, I am surprised that Sam Kiley's article (February 17) suggests the increased number of A-level students applying for places at universities and polytechnics is "good news for ministers", presumably meaning that the Government's student loans scheme is vindicated.

The awful consequences of the scheme will not be experienced until well after it is in place — when those students entering careers in education and science, especially research, will not be able both to repay their loans and enjoy a decent standard of living and those from less well-off backgrounds will face the dreadful choice between supporting impoverished families and repayment.

Such a situation can only lead to one outcome: Britain will experience the mass default on student loan repayments found in the United States of America, reducing the economic argument for the loans to shreds, and rendering the scheme itself an abject failure.

Yours faithfully,  
GILES P. T. WALKER,  
Flat 1, 6 Kensington Place, W8.

## Community charge

From the Leader of the Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead  
Sir, I was amused to read a recent claim by Lady Porter, Leader of Westminster City Council and a fellow Conservative, that she is able to achieve a community charge of under £200 as a result of running an efficient council.

I too run an efficient council, and my colleagues at Berkshire County Council are hardly renowned for their extravagance. Even so, I expect the community charge in this borough to be over £460.

Berkshire and this borough together will run much the same services next year as Westminster, but the Government's standard spending assessment (their estimate of the "need to spend") is about twice as much per head for Westminster as for us. The Government grant in Westminster will be about 4½ times as much per head (£865, as against £190).

I do not doubt that Lady Porter runs an efficient authority; but if we had even half the Government grant per head that she has in Westminster we, too, could declare a £200 community charge.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER EVA, Leader,  
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council,  
Town Hall,  
St Ives Road,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire,  
February 22.

## Church wheel clamps

From Dr G. K. Laycock  
Sir, Members and prospective members of the Wilmslow Methodist church (Diary, February 22) should consider themselves fortunate. Holy Trinity Church, Fareham, has recently introduced wheel clamping in an attempt to discourage the ungodly parking of unwelcome cars on church property. Several parishioners attending church functions have been clamped whilst their meetings have been taking place. The scheme is working so well that the car park is generally empty. I wonder, however, how long it will take for the pews to become so.

Yours faithfully,  
G. K. LAYCOCK,  
29 Pembury Road,  
Sturminster,  
Fareham, Hampshire,  
February 22.



## OBITUARIES

## MALCOLM FORBES

Magazine publisher and man of daring eccentricities

Malcolm Forbes, the ebullient millionaire publisher who died of a heart attack on February 24, at the age of 70, was one of America's richest men — and one of its more engagingly eccentric characters.

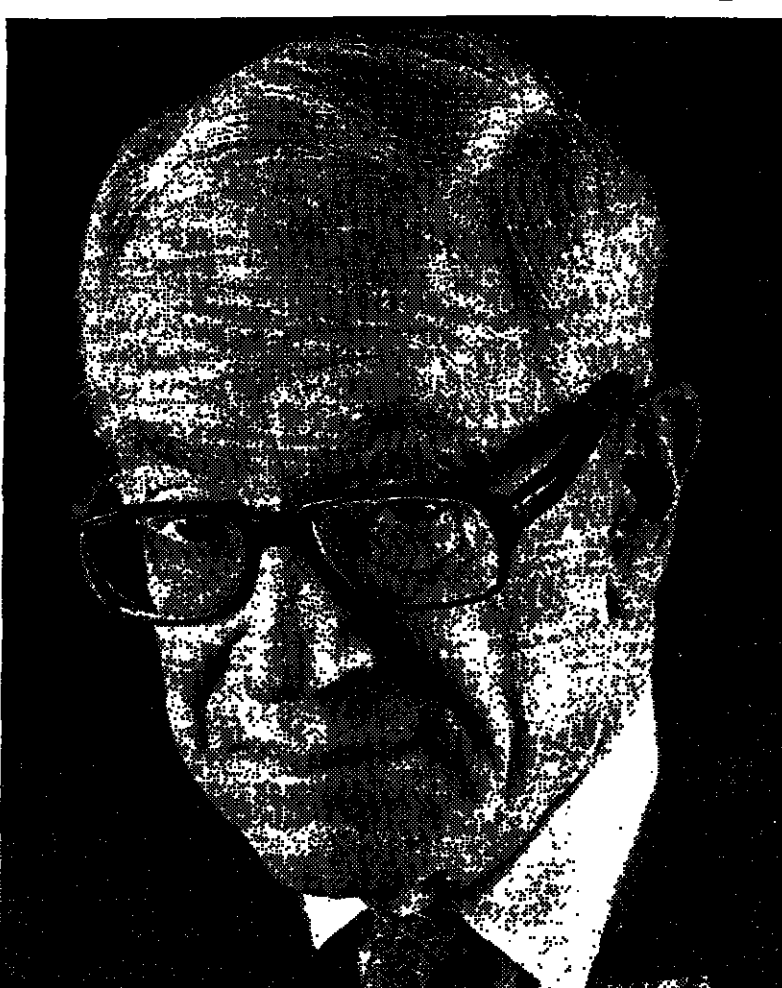
Indeed, though his fortune from the family bi-monthly business journal, *Forbes Magazine*, and other publishing ventures, was variously estimated at somewhere between \$400 million and \$1,000 million, it was the flamboyant, extravagant — not to say daring — side of his activities which more frequently made the headlines.

Forbes had a penchant for exotic or off-beat modes of travel, though this sometimes exposed him to considerable risk. Being discreetly whisked to the VIP suites of international airports in air-conditioned limousines, as befitted a man of his corporate means and gravitas, held no charms for him. His idea of fun was a spin around the New Jersey countryside at weekends, astride one of the many Harley Davidson motor cycles he owned.

Balloons were another love. In 1973, he became the first person to fly across America, coast-to-coast, and he had a collection of these lighter-than-air craft to fit every occasion: a sphinx-shaped balloon to fly over Egypt; a craft in the form of an elephant for traversing Thailand, and a balloon shaped like a bust of Beethoven for aerial excursions above the Federal Republic of Germany.

Not that this hobby did not have its hazards. On one occasion Forbes narrowly escaped death when his balloon for a planned transatlantic flight deflated as it was taking off. On another, while making a forced landing on farmland in a remote western state of America, he found himself staring down the twin barrels of a 12-gauge shotgun, wielded by a farmer convinced that the East Coast millionaire was a visitant from another planet.

Forbes's hospitality was in a like vein, and partook of a similar appetite for the exotic. It reached its apogee in a 70th birthday party he held in Morocco last year. On that occasion he flew 800 guests, who included Elizabeth Taylor and Henry Kissinger, to his mansion in Tangier. King Hassan of Morocco also held a lavish



party during the birthday celebrations, which attracted worldwide media coverage for their stylishness.

Malcolm Forbes was born in Brooklyn, New York City, on August 19, 1919, the son of Berie Charles Forbes, a Scotsman who had emigrated to America from a village near Aberdeen. He was educated at Lawrenceville and Princeton Universities, where he graduated in 1941.

He cut his teeth in publishing when he became owner of the *Fairfield Times*, a weekly paper in Lancaster, Ohio, and in the following year he founded the *Lancaster Tribune*.

During the Second World War he served in the US Army and saw action in France, Belgium and Germany. He

was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, and was also severely wounded, spending several months in hospital as a result. A legacy of this war service was a limp which was to remain with him for the rest of his life.

After the end of the war, he joined his father at *Forbes*, and a few years later embarked on a political career. He was a New Jersey Senator from 1952 to 1958, and in 1957 he ran unsuccessfully as the Republican Party candidate for governor of the state. However, though President Eisenhower campaigned for him, Forbes was defeated by the incumbent, the Democrat Robert B. Meyer. The consolation of having gained more votes than any prior New Jersey

Republican gubernatorial candidate was not one to appeal to a man like him. He resigned from the New Jersey Senate in 1958 and sought no further political office thereafter.

In 1954, he took over the running of *Forbes*, which had been started by his father in 1946, and became its publisher, president, editor-in-chief and sole owner.

The motto, "Capitalist Tool" which he gave to it, was appropriate for a journal which, when he took it over, was a somewhat staid publication with a circulation of around 100,000. In the following years he saw it expand to its present level of 720,000, multiplying its advertising revenues 40-fold in the process. Moreover this startling growth was achieved in the face of intense competition from larger rivals such as *Newsweek*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Fortune* and *Business Week*.

Besides his success with *Forbes*, he also diversified his business interests into property development, first in the states of Colorado and Missouri, and later, overseas to Fiji and elsewhere.

Though Forbes improved on his father's performance with the family magazine, he always acknowledged his debt to him, particularly in the intangible matter of judging any company in which he became involved by the quality of its management, rather than by last year's balance sheet. Conceding that this was a matter of monitoring subtle nuances and footnotes, he liked to say of proprietors like himself: "We're the drama critics of American business."

Among the more exotic extensions of his business were a leading motor cycle dealership, his Tangier palace, and a French chateau. His most recent publishing venture, a magazine called *Egg*, aimed at up-and-coming city dwellers, appeared on news stands shortly before his death.

Forbes also contributed lavishly to charity; among his most spectacular recent acts was to give \$1 million for research into AIDS.

Forbes married, in 1946, Roberta Remsen Laidlaw. The marriage, of which there were four sons and a daughter, was dissolved in 1985. Laidlaw had been often in the company of Elizabeth Taylor.

## SANDRO PERTINI

Restoring authority to the Italian presidency

Sandro Pertini who was President of the Italian Republic from 1978 to 1985, died on February 24 at the age of 93.

Pertini was well over 80 when he was elected President but he showed no sign whatsoever of the burdens of longevity in becoming by far the most popular head of state the country ever had.

Whether expressing his disdain for terrorism, his confidence in young people, his public criticism of politicians when he felt they were doing less than their duty, Pertini managed to persuade much of the nation to identify itself with him and feel content to do so. He was a life-long socialist but this in no way limited either his appeal or his outlook. He liked to see himself as an old fashioned anti-clerical while at the same time he was happy to talk of his personal friendship with Pope John Paul II. He avoided cautions except that of exceptional human warmth, which was reflected in his own genial, pipe-smoking persona.

It was by the force of this personality that Pertini raised the influence of the Italian presidency considerably above the limited power the country's Constitution had bestowed upon it after the war. He took office when authority was at a very low ebb. His Christian Democrat predecessor had been forced to quit prematurely over involvement in the Lockheed aircraft bribery scandal and Aldo Moro, the Prime Minister, had shortly before been assassinated by Red Brigade terrorists.

He was utterly firm against the scourge of terrorism because he so sincerely believed in the Republic as a democratic institution. Pertini also was the first to help bring forward non-Christian Democrat party leaders as Italian Prime Ministers.

Pertini came to be popularly called "Il Nonno" (Grandpa), and won the ordinary citizen's hearts essentially for his old-fashioned virtues like honesty and speaking his mind. This included publicly condemning the Mafia, the slow-moving Italian bureaucracy after the 1980 earthquake and protesting to Argentina's military rulers over the gross abuse of human rights they permitted.

Alessandro Pertini was born at Stella San Giovanni, near Savona, on September 23, 1896. His father, a farmer, died when the boy was small and he was brought up by his mother. He took degrees in political science and law. During the First World War he served as an artillery officer and was decorated.

Afterwards the war he enrolled in the Socialist Party and set himself on a course which inevitably brought him into conflict with Fascism. Early in 1923, only months after Mussolini's seizure of power, Pertini was arrested for the first time when he was



surprised distributing pamphlets entitled *Under the Barbarous Fascist Domination*.

During a trial, at which he was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment, he calmly stated that he accepted full responsibility for his action, adding that he was willing to die if necessary for his political faith. Released from prison, he was attacked six times by Fascist squads, once while wearing a conspicuous red tie on May Day.

Pertini was subsequently condemned to five years' internal exile but escaped first to Milan and then, with Filippo Turati, the great socialist figure of the day, by boat to Corsica. Pertini worked in Paris washing taxis and then earned a living as a building labourer. He was sought by the Fascist police but returned to Italy in 1929 because he wanted to found a clandestine Socialist movement. He was recognized, arrested and sentenced to 11 years' jail by a special tribunal, five years of which he spent in prison and the rest in domestic exile.

A hero of the Resistance Movement, Pertini was awarded the Gold Medal of Valour and helped organize the liberation struggle in northern Italy.

He had to wait until 1969 for a public post suitable to his talents when he was elected Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. He was reconfirmed in 1972.

It was from this post that Pertini moved in July 1978 to the Quirinale, only symbolically, in a sense, he continued to live in his comparative modest flat near the Trevi Fountain which was in fact comfortably close to the President's palace. He used the official residence only for work and for entertaining.

At the end of the war Pertini married Carla Bruni whom he met when she was working for the Resistance. A professional psychiatrist, known for her unconventional views, she refused to accept the responsibilities of a first lady on the grounds that her husband had been elected president by Parliament, not by her. Her husband was in complete agreement with her view.

## JOHNNIE RAY

Fifties singer who fashioned the teenage audience for pop music



Johnnie Ray, the American singer, who, in the Fifties, virtually created the fashion for teenage hysteria which has surrounded popular music ever since, died of liver failure at his Los Angeles home. He was 63.

Deaf in his right ear, with a distinctive emotional catch in his voice, and the ability to cry to order during his songs, Ray's personal appearances between 1951 and 1960 singing ballads like "Cry", depending on a strident emotional delivery rather than the intelligence of the lyrics, transformed the idea of a modern ballad singer, and, in many ways, can be seen as setting the stage for the kind of mass teenage reception which was accorded to rock 'n' roll.

Before Johnnie Ray only Frank Sinatra had generated anything approaching actual hysteria among an audience

and that was by accident rather than design. Ray recognized that a new and important teenage audience of what came to be known as "bobbysoxers" had emerged in the United States in the aftermath of the Second World War and, initially unwittingly, exploited its desire to identify emotionally with a singer as a fantasy idol. By doing so he laid the foundations for later pop music.

Born in Dallas, Oregon in 1927, Ray first performed in clubs and bars in Detroit in the late 1940s, usually as a solo performer singing to his own piano accompaniment. His deafness, which led to his wearing a hearing aid throughout his career, encouraged him to adopt a declamatory and unsophisticated style.

With his first international

success, "Cry", in 1951 Ray rapidly came to symbolize the emerging teenage culture with a right to its own fashions, emotions and music. Nicknamed the "Prince of Weils" and the "Nabob of Sob", Ray enjoyed an unprecedented personal success in the ensuing decade.

Although the overt sexuality of his performances and some of his songs raised some eyebrows, it never affected his popularity among his teenage audience. They were not aware that his method of delivery owed a great deal to the emotional style of the legendary Billie Holiday.

As the more socially conscious decade of the Sixties opened, however, so Ray's perhaps unsophisticated style began to lose its appeal. A planned career as a film actor had flowered, briefly, in 1954, with *There's No Business Like*

*Show Business*, but Ray found it impossible to make the transition to the changing musical style of elaborate harmonies and socially aware lyrics symbolized by Bob Dylan and later by the Beatles.

In the first years of the Sixties his personal life underwent severe strain and led to the breakup of his marriage and to what he later admitted was a severe alcoholic dependence. In 1965 he retired from touring altogether.

At the beginning of the Seventies, however, Ray began to recreate his career, depending very much on his original material and his original style, appealing nostalgically to the middle-aged men and women who remembered him as their first teenage idol some 20 years before.

Ray never remarried and had no children.

John Taylor

## Our duty to share the good news

Evangelism is such an aggressive word. It conjures up pictures of our homes with a style of delivery which is more like physical assault than a reasoned case. The kind of questions it asks — Are you saved? — do not admit to any other acceptable answer than yes. Any attempt to say "Yes, but..." or "Saved from what..." is interpreted as clear evidence of the "unsaved" character of the one confronted. It operates in slogans and claims to offer a simple Gospel.

This is, however, a caricature of what evangelism is about, although it is sufficiently close to the truth to make the granting of television franchises a matter of serious concern to Christians who do not want the complexities of life reduced to the level of an animated cartoon. It remains true nonetheless that evangelism is a good word distorted by linking it in some quarters with the word "aggressive". It does not have to be a blunt instrument used to beat people over the head. There are other ways of proceedings.

At the heart of evangelism is good news; good news about God; good news about community; good news about each individual. The good news about God is that he is not a capricious, whimsical God who is just as likely to swat you as caress you. He is a God of love who can be trusted, upon whom you can rely. The good news about community is that as God loves us, so we are meant to live in a community which embodies that love.

We are not meant to live alone, isolated and introverted. We are meant to live for each other. The good news about each individual is that each is loved by God in his or her uniqueness, each having special value in the sight of God which no one can take away, each having a potential which no one else can fulfil.

Each person's perspective on the good news is different according to who he is and according to where he stands. For someone who is hungry, good news is bread. For someone who

is thirsty, good news is clean drinking water. For someone who is alone, good news is a neighbour who calls. For an isolated community, good news is a better bus service. The provision of all these things is a proper Christian concern, for the meeting of specific, real human need is the setting where it is possible to bear the good news about God, about fellow human beings and about the value of each individual human life.

It is a proper Christian concern that the story should be told, that the facts of the Christian faith should be rehearsed and a reason given for the faith within; and all of this in words. Particular as is the nature of good news for some people in terms of bread or water, that does not remove from the Christian witness the hope that there will come a point when he will be able to tell the story of Jesus of Nazareth and give an account of why it all matters.

It is here that for some the distinction is to be found between mission and Evangelism. Every move towards another, every step away from self towards another, is mission. Evangelism on the other hand is the attempt to move beyond the actions which, it is claimed (sometimes

truthfully), speak louder than words, to words themselves. Evangelism tries to articulate the faith. It is a deliberate attempt to communicate in words the good news about God which is at the heart of the Christian proclamation.

In the end whether such a distinction between mission and evangelism is right does not matter, as long as some effort is made to articulate the faith in words as well as in acts of service. What is clear, however, is that acts of service must not be undertaken with the sole object of engineering an opportunity to speak

the word of witness. That opportunity may or may not present itself. Kindness towards others should be the natural overflow of the love of God. It is not shown out of any ulterior motive, however good it may be. The opportunity to tell the story or to give verbal expression to what the Christian believes will come quite naturally without the need to hammer aggressively on the world's door. It all comes down to a question of life style.

To describe the working of the Kingdom of God, Jesus used pictures. He described it as leaven in the lump, as salt seasoning the whole, as seed growing secretly. Such imagery implies that Christian witness will not be a blunt instrument used to beat the world over the head, but rather the quiet unobtrusive insertion of the Christian perspective into the bloodstream of the individual and of society. It will permeate the whole.

Such an approach does not rail at people. It does not go about producing guilt where there is none, although it does point up the consequences of individual wrong-doing as well as seeking the eradication of social evil and injustice.

The proclamation of the Gospel will involve the church and individual Christians in bearing witness, by word or deed, to the God of love. It will involve them in creating the kind of community where all find support, where no one is excluded. To achieve such involvement Christians will have to be engaged, at a local, regional, national and international level, in living issues. The church can expect to be pushed aside unless Christians are prepared to commit themselves to the day to day work of creating community.

It is in such a context that exercising the option for the poor must become the Christian priority. Life is lived out in a social and political framework. The Christian cannot therefore avoid social and political involvement without the

Christian life being reduced to an individual, private matter. The presence of committed Christians in every level of society is likely to be more effective Evangelism than the confrontational approach which so often bears that name.

All of this implies for the church, in terms of its own house-keeping, preparing the yeast, keeping the salt dry, storing the seed which will give next year's harvest. The presence of the yeast or the salt will be felt throughout the structures of society. It will bear witness to God's activity

## Challenge norms of society

in the large affairs of the world as well as in the quiet, ordinary surroundings of normal daily life. If they are to be the yeast or the salt in the world at large, Christians need to be better equipped.

The church must therefore find new and more effective ways of nurturing and teaching its own members. Even in the church there is an appalling ignorance of the Christian scriptures and Christian theology. Those who are to be live yeast in society must be able to rehearse the Christian story and know how it resonates with the life of the world. Those who are to be salt must know how and when the Christian message challenges the norms of society, when, for example, power is judged by a king who takes a towel and washes his servants' feet.

Those who are to be seed growing alongside others must themselves be deeply rooted in the traditions of the church. If this nurture is to be available, if teaching is to be given, then the ministers of the church need to regain their lost nerve and offer it. They need to be willing to share their own expensive theological education with others.

The Rev John Taylor is General Secretary of the Division of Ministries of the Methodist Church.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.D. Bell and Miss L.L. Graham. The engagement is announced between L.L. Graham, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Montrose, and John Bell, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bell, of Ngania, Masterton, New Zealand.

Mr J.E.F. Campbell and Miss P.A. O'Brien. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs I.E.F. Campbell, of Feathercombe, Surrey, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. O'Brien, The Old Vicarage, Swaffham, Norfolk.

Mr A. d'Epinois George and Miss C.A. Brodie Cooper. The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Dr and Mrs John George, of Beverston, Tebury, Glos, and Cristina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Brodie Cooper, of Little Broom, Surrey, are pleased to announce their engagement.

Mr A.J. Dixon and Miss J. Bohr. The engagement is announced between Andrew James, son of Mr and Mrs M.D. Dixon, of Wimbledon, London, and Julie, daughter of Mr Erik Bohr, and Mrs Ellen Bohr, of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Señor M. Gallego Rodriguez and Miss T.T. Lacey. The engagement is announced between Manolo, elder son of Señores De Gallego, of Madrid, and Tanya, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.I. Lacey, of London.

Mr R.H. Hall and Miss A.J. Clayton-Smith. The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs B.A. Hall, of Burton-on-Trent, and Alison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Clayton-Smith, of Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Mr D.S. Hicklet and Miss B.L. Hyde. The engagement is announced between David Saladin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nevill Hicklet, of Lowfield Heath, Sussex, and Brenda Lea, younger daughter of The Reverend and Mrs D.J. Hyde, of Hove, Sussex.

Mr S.J. Harris and Miss C.J. Ashfield. The engagement is announced between Simon J. Harris and Miss Caroline Ashfield.

Mr J.K. Hillan and Miss J.S. Blanch. Parents and friends are to be congratulated on their patience in awaiting the engagement now announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J. Hillan, of Christleton, Chester, and Juliet, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W.M. Blanch, of Loope Cove, Devon.

Mr D.E.N. Lewis and Miss A.L. Kay. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Lewis, of Reigate, Surrey, and Andrea, daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Payne, of Romsey, Hampshire.

Mr G.P. Lloyd Williams and Miss L.L. Painter. The engagement is announced between Giles, only son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Lloyd Williams, of Partridge Green, West Sussex, and Trudi, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Canning, of Middle Aston, Oxfordshire.

Mr S.R. Lowe and Miss J.M. Barnes. The engagement is announced between Shaun, only son of Mr and Mrs David Lowe, of Churchdown, Gloucestershire, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Barnes, of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Mr A.E. Montagu and Miss L.H. Gaden. The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Major and Mrs M.D. Montagu, of Barnaby Farm, Berks, and Louise Helen, twin daughter, of Mr and Mrs A.G.H. Gaden, of Trull, Taunton, Somerset.

Mr C.R. Vercoe and Miss T.C. Lacey. The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Dr and Mrs M.G.S. Vercoe, of Coventry, and Tiffany, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.I. Lacey, of London.

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THESE are the names of the couples who are to be married in the coming months. The names are given in the order in which the marriages are to take place. The names are given in the order in which the marriages are to take place.

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## THE ARTS

## Lost in the pit of doom

Sheridan Morley

One of the enduring mysteries of the 1980s is why the decade produced so little major drama based on current affairs. No O'Casey for Ireland, no Galsworthy to deal with Thatcher's England, not even an Emily Williams or an A.J. Cronin to deal with the miners' strike.

True, there was the play *Pravda* about the press revolution, but precious little else which is why on Channel 4 last night *A Strike Out of Time* promised so well. A dramatized documentary to mark the fifth anniversary of the miners' strike, it was written and directed by Paul Bryers in a style borrowed from Warren Beatty's *Reds*, the film which mixed reconstruction of the Russian Revolution with the eye witness accounts of those who lived through its aftermath.

But Bryers's first problem was the refusal of his two real-life stars to join the witnesses. Neither Arthur Scargill nor Ian MacGregor would take part, and in their absence two good look-alike performers (Paul Rogers as MacGregor and David Harries as Scargill) were lumbered with the desperately pedestrian script which appeared to have been cobbled together from old press releases and not a lot else.

Although the strike was for all kinds of reasons - political as well as human - a major national tragedy, last night's dramatization was a disappointing fall between several stools. Harriet was not only without the prime, but also without Shakespeare although in there somewhere remained all the components for a serious play.

In the end, it was left to Kim Howells of the South Wales NUM to deliver the epitaph to Scargill's dreams of a Socialist Republic of South Yorkshire. "All he had were corridors full of boys with broken arms pummelled into defeat."

But the figure of real fascination here was that of David Hart, the freelance journalist who became a shadowy adviser to MacGregor at the Coal Board. As interviewed, he proved to be a mild-mannered libertarian, as played by Jack Klaff in the dramatized sequences he was a sinister figure of infinite power who alone decided that the miners had to be crushed rather than negotiated into a compromise solution.

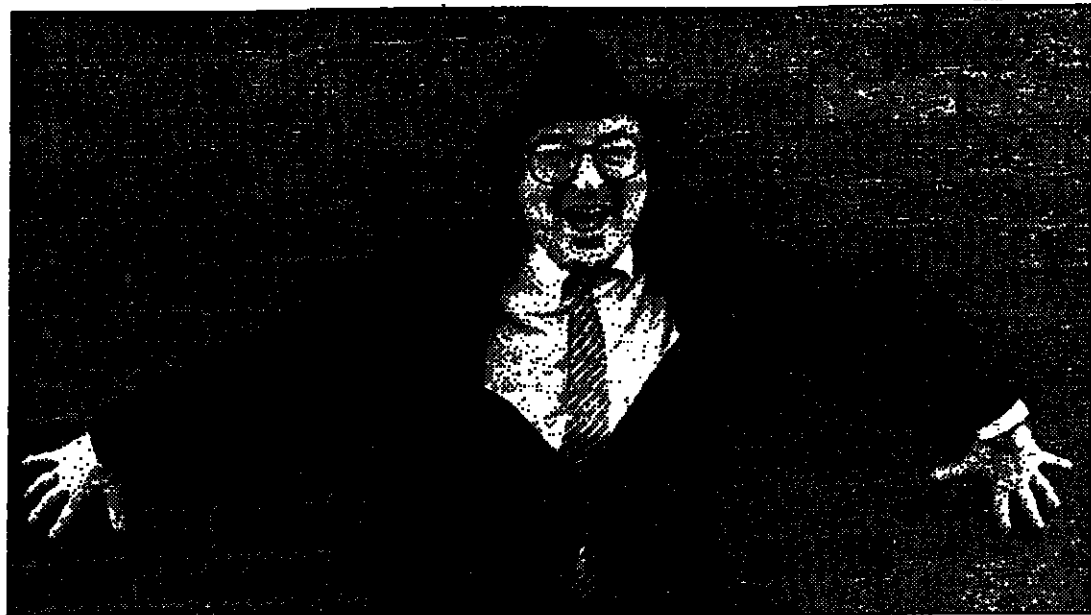
The biggest defeat for the Labour movement since 1926 was also the moment when a century of trades unionism ended with one group pitching stones at another. Men with too much past to be defeated also found themselves with no real future to be won, and there were moments when this greater truth could be glimpsed through Bryers's uneasy mix of newswire and reconstruction and interviews.

But in the final analysis, the stars did not look down, the corn was not green, and the whole historical manoeuvre remained as foredoomed as Arthur Scargill's haircut.

## Jazzing up the airwaves

Clive Davis examines the launch of Britain's first jazz radio station and meets the man who beat Andrew Lloyd Webber to the prize slot

ADRIAN BROOKS



Dave Lee: he knows the policy is likely to displease purists, but is convinced that he is on the right tracks

Forget the publicity about Jazz FM. The jazz buff's dream radio station is already on the air, broadcasting undiluted improvisation to an audience of committed listeners. The drawback is that it is in New York.

WKCR plays some 70 hours of jazz each week, alongside classical and "ethnic" music. As far as hard-core fans are concerned, its most celebrated features have been the non-stop retrospectives devoted to the recorded output of individual musicians. The last such tribute, held in November, concentrated on the veteran drummer, Art Blakey. "It lasted," says the station DJ, Elliott Bratton, "roughly 200 hours - that's about a week and two days".

I spoke to Bratton while he was actually presenting a show. There was ample time for us to talk, since he was playing a 22-minute track by the uncompromising modern pianist Don Pullen. The kind of music, in short, which is likely to deter any casual button-tweezer. There is little chance of such a piece going out on Jazz FM, Britain's first non-pirate, all-jazz radio station, which is launched on Sunday. Two hundred-hour marathons are also out of the question, which will come as a relief to anyone not interested in Art Blakey.

The big difference, of course, is that WKCR is not a commercial enterprise. Attached to Columbia University, it relies on subsidies and contributions from benevolent listeners. Jazz FM, by contrast, will exist in a harsh world where advertising revenue and audience figures are crucial. All of which explains why the station's early test transmissions have been playing music that is not normally thought of as jazz. Richard jazz buff, tuning to the 102.2 frequency, have come away shaking their heads as they describe hearing strains of a soul singer - Anita Baker - or even a middle-of-the-road artist like Al Jarreau.

The station's co-founder, Dave Lee, knows that the policy is likely

to displease purists, but he is convinced that he is on the right tracks. "When we were doing the market research, there was one figure that stood out: 60 per cent of the people who were asked said they didn't like jazz. But they did like Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, George Benson and Nat King Cole, artists like that."

"That's the kind of audience we need to go after. Instead of going down the extreme jazz road, we want to lead people by the hand, then we can play a higher proportion of real jazz later on. I hope the regular jazz people will just be patient."

A seasoned pianist, Lee has played with some of the world's best soloists. As a session musician, he has a batch of advertising jingles to his credit, and in the Sixties, he was musical director on *That Was The Week That Was*. The idea for an all-jazz station came to him a decade ago while he

was shaving in a Los Angeles bathroom. The local jazz station was playing in the background, and Lee found himself wondering why London could not have its own equivalent.

Backed by a solid team of business associates, he began

'Sixty per cent of the people said they didn't like jazz, but liked Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, George Benson and Nat King Cole. That's the audience we're after'

lobbying the Home Office for a space on the airwaves. When the Government finally announced plans for a new swathe of specialist stations - known as "incrementals" - Lee's company, London

Jazz Radio, put in a bid for the London FM slot. Last July, to the surprise of even some of its senior members, the group came out on top, ahead of 31 other contenders including a much-financed classical consortium with Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Jazz FM's daytime output will lean towards soul, Latin music and R&B, with most of the straight jazz content being reserved for the evening. Apart from the younger, daytime DJs, the specialist line-up includes Beany Green and the trad cornet player-cum-educationalist, Digby Fairweather. There will also be a "jazz book at bedtime", launched with Ross Russell's biography of Charlie Parker, *Bird Lives*.

As for the avant-garde, the Cecil Taylors and John Zorns, Lee promises that there will be a slot, but "at an avant-garde hour". "It's the same as a classical station playing Stockhausen. You can't

play hours of it during the day, because listeners will switch off."

The sceptics are already muttering about a betrayal. But past experience suggests that the market for jazz allows little margin for error. The Los Angeles station which first inspired Lee, for instance - KJZZ - recently took jazz off FM and switched to classical instead, leaving jazz only on the lesser AM frequency. According to a spokesman, part of the audience had gradually defected to "New Age" music. A more acerbic view came from one local listener, the respected critic and composer, Leonard Feather: "It was having problems keeping its identity. They were getting complaints from trad fans who said there was too much fusion, while the fusion lovers were saying exactly the opposite."

As Lee opposes, the best compromise may be a format which does not pretend that jazz is the be-all and end-all. One of the liveliest stations in Paris, FIP - part of Radio France - tries to maintain a ratio of 20 per cent jazz during the day, mixed with classical and pop. In the early evening jazz takes over completely for an hour and a half.

Presentation is kept as brief as possible; station executive Francois Joffa describes the smoky female tones as the voice of an air hostess speaking over the intercom. "We want to keep it accessible. We don't want presenters to sound like they're reading from an encyclopaedia of jazz."

In the meantime, the Jazz FM staff are still trying to sort out their definitions of the art form. According to Lee, Scott Joplin is out, but Anita Baker is in ("She's a jazz singer whose albums aren't jazz," he says, bafflingly). Glenn Miller seems to be another borderline case. "In *The Mood*" is unlikely to pass the test, but the later work by the Army Air Force Orchestra is expected to find a niche in the big band show. Sinatra, Jimi Hendrix, Ravel, B.B. King... you could go on and on. The fanatics certainly will.

## DANCE

John Percival

The Moor's Pavane Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds

The tiny stage of the beautiful little Georgian Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds offers a challenge to anyone programming an evening of ballet, but it was specifically to meet such challenges that Peter Schaufuss extensively developed the idea of a touring chamber group of dancers from English National Ballet.

Starting a new tour, they offered on Friday a programme in which, wisely, pure ballet classicism was confined to the love duet and showpiece solos from Bournonville's *Flower Festival at Genzano*, ebulliently danced by Christine Camillo and Matz Skoog.

There was one new production, *The Moor's Pavane*, first given by this company in Athens last December and receiving its British premiere. José Limón, one of the great names of an earlier generation of American dancers, died in 1972, contrary to usual expectation, his reputation has been growing ever since.

Limón subtitled the work "Variations on the theme of Othello". He does not tell the story at all realistically, but lets the characters reveal their emotions in an under-stated, almost abstract way during formal dances to music by Purcell. Even so, it could take more powerful performances than the bulky, bearded Diego Ciavatti and his colleagues provide.

Similarly, in *Aureole*, only Theresa Jarvis as the leading woman had a true feeling for Paul Taylor's lyric style. The performance as a whole looked too light and balletic, without humour or power to give it character. But even Taylor's own dancers would have had problems with so little space and with David Johnson's stolid piano playing of the Handel music.

Consequently, the evening's climax was unambiguously *Swan Song*, with its original cast of Koen Onizuka, Matz Skoog and Kevin Richmond to give full value to Christopher Bruce's impassioned dance drama.

## Hilary Finch

BBC SO/Davis Barbican/Radio 3

The BBC's Scandinavian season has given their Symphony Orchestra the chance to do their bit in the great and gradual reinstatement of Nielsen, which the closing years of this century seem to be witnessing.

The combination - interaction, even - of Robert Simpson's outstanding programme notes and equally perceptive musical direction from the baton of Andrew Davis made this an unusually satisfying concert.

Too many pairs of ears, schooled in the Austro-German, wooed by the Latin, and stimulated by the atonal, are still bewildered when confronted by Nielsen. One of the tricks, as Simpson pointed out and Davis showed with rare panache, is to surrender to the pull of the music's harmonic dynamism; and in the Fourth Symphony it is, unusually, dynamic.

Davis literally ran into the symphony's opening, and ensured

that its invention was truly "inextinguishable" right to the end. In this continuous work, Davis's skill was to sense out the nimble changes of rhythmic course which best fit its tonal fire. By pitting the best of his soloists one against another - the curl of a flute phrase into the thrumming of a viola, the raw signal of the clarinet into the steel of the strings - the fluctuating movement was constantly renewed. This was a performance cogent of mind, light of spirit and robust of music.

It was complemented by an equally powerful interpretation of the Second Symphony of Nielsen's contemporary, Sibelius. *Finlandia* had introduced us to his sound world, and to the orchestra's supple invigoration of its pounding rhythms and its light handling of the dense brass chords.

Davis went to the heart of the Sibelius paradox: the surge of the small motif countering the lithe-ness of the broad melodic swathe. In matching the tightening of tempo and harmony, he created a tension which did away with the need for the signposting so often imposed on its Finale, and drew playing of exceptional clarity from the strings.

## CONCERTS

Richard Morrison

Nash Ensemble Wigmore Hall

Birthday presents, in the shape of world premieres, keep on arriving in the Nash Ensemble's typically adventurous 25th anniversary season. But festive and celebratory are not words that sprang to mind as one listened to Colin Matthews's new *Three-part Chaconne for String Trio and Piano Left-Hand*.

It is an elegantly thought-out piece, its structure as cogent as a quadratic equation - and for the last two minutes of its nine-minute duration it freezes into a cracking allegro. The pianist's left-hand transforms what had been a lugubrious opening recitative into a dazzling sprint up the keyboard, which the strings urge onwards with trills. But earlier, the Chaconne theme had been worked out rather earnestly in convoluted, chromatic counterpoint that lacked a clearly defined expressive purpose.

Elsewhere, the programme had a Russian flavour. John Tavener's

Settings of Six Russian Folk Songs - for soprano and a weird chamber ensemble which included the balalaika-like domra, supplying the appropriate *Dr Zhivago* touch to the textures - were entertaining pieces, though occasionally over-cluttered with instrumental detail. Most of the settings also seemed to have three verses too many, but folk songs usually do. The cycle finished with "Kalinka" - hoary old veteran of a thousand Red Army Choir concerts.

Jill Gomez sang these with a greater sense of style than she had earlier seemed to command in Shostakovich's settings of *Seven Poems of Alexander Blok*. These songs move extremely subtly from calmness to meane, from meane to a neurosis, manifest in obsessively repeated phrases, and from neurosis to anguished outbursts that split the music's restraint like an axe splitting a log.

Gomez and the Nash instrumentalists gave a good account of the notes, but did not always capture the spirit of the music. However, the players went on to offer an affecting performance of Shostakovich's Piano Quintet, a beautiful work played with great tenderness.

## David Fallows

RLPO/Haenchen Liverpool

It will be interesting to see how much our cultural life changes as a result of the amazing events of the past few months and of the bold plans laid for a future united Europe. There may also be distinguished continental musicians who fail to be heard in Britain, simply because our country is small and our support for the arts is relatively meagre. But it is still surprising that a first-rate East German conductor can have a massively successful career in a country as near as The Netherlands but remain virtually unknown here.

In several ways Hartmut Haenchen showed himself to be an individual and important artist at his debut with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. He has that uncanny skill of being able to create musical space: the music may be going at breakneck speed, but there is always room for the players to phrase with freedom and flexibility. That was clear right from the

beginning of this concert, when Beethoven's often despised *Prometheus Overture* emerged with startling lyricism.

It could also be heard in Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, where he mixed well with the strikingly different musician-ship of Pascal Devoyon, who made up for certain lapses of detail with a sparkling and irresistible sense of shape and phrasing.

But none of this quite prepared the listener for the memorable reading of Schubert's Great C Major Symphony that ended the concert. Perhaps it was the conductor's experience in The Netherlands that gave him a sense of the new colours and formal attitudes that come with the original-instruments movement. Bright trumpet, gentle trombones, and reedy woodwind declared this to be a performance of the 1990s. An emphasis on the colour of the individual phrase brought out many details that usually go unheard.

If Haenchen once or twice allowed a climax to develop a little unsteadily out of the astonishing stillness he created, he nevertheless demonstrated that he is a conductor who must be heard far more in Britain.

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FEBRUARY 1990

## When a wife finds that her husband has Aids

THEATRE  
Benedict NightingaleMarital Aids  
Rose Theatre

Before the plague has run its course there will, one suspects, be quite a few plays about the predicament of the wife who discovers that her husband could be infected with Aids and she herself may be a victim too. Let us hope some of them grab the heart and mind more powerfully than Jack Bradley's well-meant but trite two-hander at the Rose.

Andrew Whelan's *Ryk* is an earnest ambulance man, a vocation which (so the programme solemnly assures us) has no bearing on any current industrial dispute. Deborah McMahon's smiling Judi wears a CND badge, belongs



Fear: Deborah McMahon as Judi and Andrew Whelan as Ryk

to the local sisterhood, and makes a career of giving others good advice. Specifically, she has been counselling a woman who broke medical confiden-

tiality, causing an Aids sufferer to lose his job. Here coincidence intervenes. This victim of prejudice turns out to be Ryk's

best friend, a homosexual truck driver called Brian. Hardly less believable, it has never occurred to Judi that the two men have done anything more intense than exchange brotherly opinions about soccer. Even when Ryk explains his fears, she at first assumes he naively believes Aids can be caught by breathing the same air as a Tottenham supporter. "What is it about men that makes you think even viruses are attracted to you?"

When she finally twigs the truth, though, she is less serene. The caring wife screams "vile" and begins packing her suitcase, notwithstanding Ryk's attempts to appease her with lines such as "I'm glad I'm finally able to be honest and share it with you."

For the dramatist, this reaction is understandable but

hypocritical. As he sees it, the main problem is less Ryk's long-term deception, less that his disloyalty may result in Judi's death, more that she is a liberal "out there" but not one "in here". She must bring her personal and political views into synchronism.

There is one fine scene. That is a broken monologue, staged with nice simplicity by David Beaton, in which Whelan's Ryk obliquely quizzes an invisible doctor about the perils facing him. But most of the time I found neither main character particularly sympathetic or plausible.

Through much of it they struck me as posturing twits. When Judi complains of unfairness, Ryk must wisely opine, "Life isn't fair." When

he appeals for understanding, she must riposte, "I'm trying, damn you Ryk. I'm trying." Whelan has more success with the play's staggier bits than McMahon: but then less is asked of him. His task is to play what his author sees as a very decent man trying to handle a painful situation as reasonably as he knows. She must variously embody unquestioning love, a shrill sense of injury, and finally - hardest of all - affectionate appreciation of his sexual and viral quirks.

No wonder there is something strenuous about McMahon's performance. Playing this stuff must feel like swimming against the tide through a sea of carrot juice. Seeing it certainly does.

## Unmerry widow is stripped bare

OPERA  
Hilary Finch

The Merry Widow Northcott, Exeter

Opera 80's 10th anniversary season is turning out to be something of a retrospective celebration. This year when, ironically, they plan to extend their activity to include a four-week autumn tour, there is all too little to celebrate.

Where *Lucia di Lammermoor* (reviewed here two weeks ago) over-stretched the young cast cruelly in vocal terms, *The Merry Widow* lands them in stylistic territory in which they are every bit as much strangers as are the Pontefradians in Paris.

Even the most perverse offerings of the early Opera 80 at least provided audiences with some challenge, and the company with a sense of theatrical *raison d'être*. Under

sophistication within which the deviousness, the frailty and the sentiments of mankind's little ways can be played out.

In failing to establish any assured or consistent tone, he leaves his young singers at the mercy of their own awkward artificiality. Dialogue is uneasy; relationships spit and stamp when they should spar; the properly arch becomes the merely coy. Jenny Westons's choreography, too, reverts too often to the striding and strutting of a variety show routine.

Baron Zeta (Ian Platt) and Danilo (Richard Hutton) both showed scope for considerable vocal panache when they were not stuck in the grip of a

Morcambe and Wise two-hander.

Heather Lorimer, a dignified, sometimes radiant Widow, came into her own in both the simplicity and vitality of her Act II numbers; though with Stephen Barlow conducting an orchestra more suited to the Prater than the Theater an der Wien, she was hard put to establish a consistently strong profile.

Eleanor Bennett's Valencienne and Andrew Forbes-Lane's Camille were similarly small scale and rather less interesting.

Opera 80 will have to do some serious rethinking if they are to justify their place in a new decade.

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MANCHESTER AIRPORT

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

# The rise and rise of a high-flyer

Transatlantic status for Manchester is expected soon. Harvey Elliott explains why this is so important

Cecil Parkinson, the Transport Secretary, hopes in the next few weeks to sign an agreement with his American opposite number formally recognizing Manchester as a gateway to Britain, despite yesterday's revelation of his embarrassing misunderstanding with Washington. Tens of thousands of transatlantic passengers already fly into and out of the airport still commonly known as Ringway. But with gateway status, the airport's authorities' ambition of enabling more of the 20 million people in the catchment area to fly direct across the Atlantic will have a chance of being realized.

It has been a long, hard struggle involving intensive political lobbying, the threat of court action and bitter battles against some of the larger airlines. The airlines have often regarded Manchester's ambition as "anti-British" and unhelpful to their attempt to win more concessions from the Americans in return for allowing more of their airlines into Britain.

The critics claim that once Manchester services can be negotiated in the same way as those from Heathrow or Gatwick, American carriers will flood in and operate a range of inter-European services after the creation of the single market that will dilute profitability, and even the viability, of British airlines.

The view is not shared by the 21 directors on the Manchester Airport company board. They ask

with some persuasiveness why millions of scheduled airline passengers living in the north should be forced to travel to London for their long-haul flights.

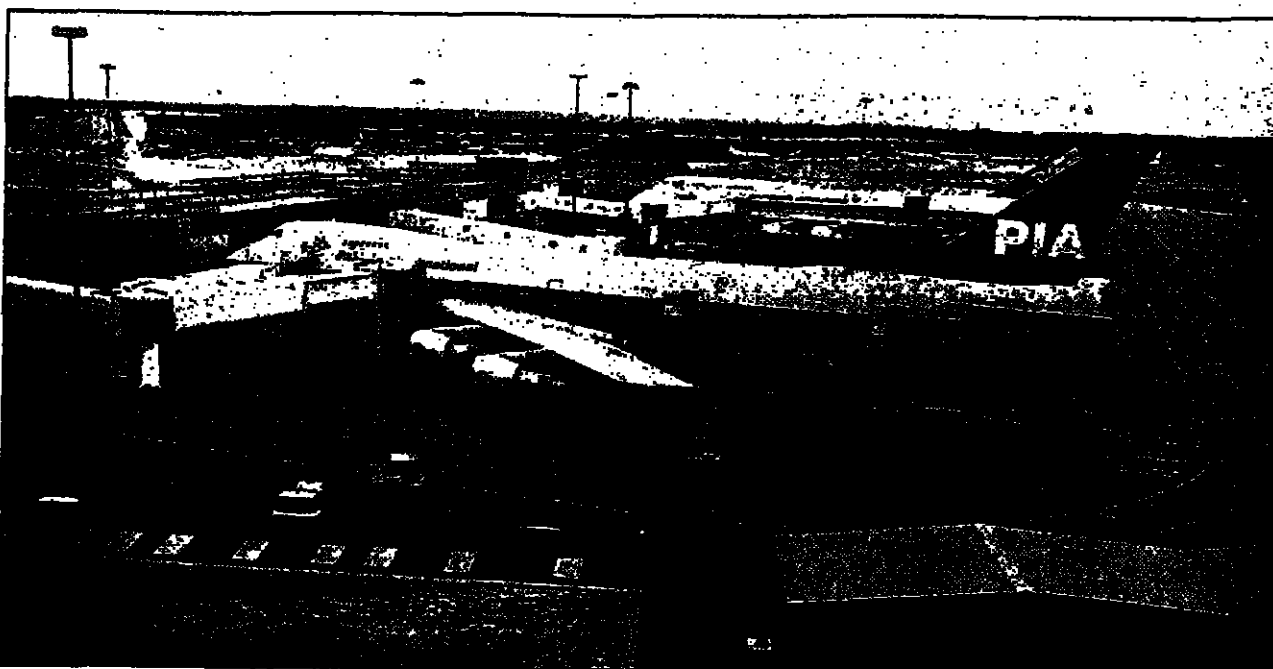
And they question why bureaucratic manoeuvrings and some airlines' desire to retain their dominance in the south should stop the expansion of Britain's premier regional airport.

However, despite the problems and legal hurdles put in their path, the airport's owners have still been able to make the most remarkable strides in establishing Manchester as a key centre for both scheduled and charter passengers.

This has been achieved even though Manchester is owned not just by one local authority but by 10 - regarded by many as a recipe for overmanaging, inefficiency and financial failure. Manchester City Council appoints nine directors to the board and the other nine district councils in Greater Manchester appoint one each. The other directors are the chief executive and two other senior executives of the company.

Last year the company made a £42 million pre-tax profit and is confident of making another handsome profit this year, despite the holiday travel slump and the high cost of borrowing money.

Because the ownership is tied up with local councils, however, the board still needs government approval to borrow money for further improvements. The restriction in practice has done little to hinder development but it still



The world calls: international airlines at the airport. Right: Cecil Parkinson fixes the new terminal's first steel piece, witnessed by GR Thompson (left) and Peter Smith, the chairman.



rankles with the directors. Somehow these problems have been overcome and in the past 10 years Manchester has grown faster than almost any other large airport in the world. Now almost 11 million passengers a year pass through its terminals, nearly three times the 1979 figure, and ambitious schemes are being pushed through at an astonishing rate.

In the 1990s the airport will spend more than £1 million every week on a new terminal and improvements to passenger and freight operations. In this way the company hopes to grab the lion's share of the booming scheduled air transport market, which is growing fast while the charter

holiday market reaches a plateau. The Far East is especially attractive. Without the bureaucratic stalemate that has hit transatlantic services, there is huge scope for future growth from countries such as Japan and Thailand.

Manchester Airport began life as a parachute training school. During the Second World War more than 70,000 paratroopers learned their art from its runways. In 1946 it was turned over to civilian use and 10,000 passengers flew from it in that first full year. Ringway today has a large and efficient terminal for international

passengers, another for domestic passengers, office blocks, maintenance hangers and an impressive freight terminal.

The airport even took the lead in appointing an environmental control manager long before the green lobby emerged. With his backing, the airport is advising operators they can fly in and out with comparatively little problem at any time of the day or night, provided they use the new generation of quiet jets such as the British Aerospace 146.

Although the airport wants to remain on friendly terms with those who live near by and to ensure that airlines using it create as little noise as possible, its first

priority is to serve the millions of passengers attracted by the ease of access and the comparatively hassle-free start to their journeys.

The whole aviation world has been plagued with security problems in recent years, and Manchester was again in the lead by spending an additional £3 million on new X-ray control equipment, search areas and 93 extra security guards.

Extra check-in desks keep queues to a minimum, runways and taxiways have been widened and resurfaced, and more than 9,000 cars can now be parked close to the airport.

More than 60 per cent of British manufacturing industry is within

two hours' drive, making the cargo terminal the country's leading freight gateway, serving more than 80 destinations.

If Manchester can win support from the Government and international airlines, its future looks rosy. As Heathrow and Gatwick reach saturation, more of the millions of potential passengers north of Watford are trying to avoid starting journeys from congested southern airports. Businessmen particularly are seeking ways of saving time and money by flying from the leading regional centre rather than battling through London or along the M25.

The author is The Times Air Correspondent.

## An international vision

The chief executive is keen to retain business but he stresses:

'It is the world that is our oyster'

From his office window Gil Thompson will watch his airport growing around him. The chief executive at number three among British airports has a panoramic view of new buildings emerging from scratch marks in the ground; freight facilities, the tentacles of a new passenger terminal, a maintenance hanger big enough to swallow two jumbos and a pair of airbuses, and a steadily increasing stream of aircraft as final approach or departing.

The development plans are bold and strongly commercial. Thompson says the prime considerations of his cus-

tomers and himself are the airlines. Attracting passengers - one fleetingly pictured them as a silvery, subsidiary wake to high-altitude jets - was a job for the airlines.

The Thompson philosophy has paid dividends because Manchester now lists more than 100 airlines large and small as customers and last year increased its retained profit by more than £5 million to £16.7 million.

Thompson is a dapper, meticulous man with a lot of energy. He has spent 40 years in the airline business and has cultivated Manchester's passenger numbers from four million a year to more than 10 million - the point at which, he says, an airport enters the seriously big league.

Overcrowding in the south-east and a check-to-check position with 60 per cent of British manufacturing industry has helped. Million upon million is being invested by the airlines and by the airport company to secure a large slice of travel business, which he believes is bound to explode in the longer term, although this year promises to be marked at best by a lull. The slump in short-haul charter trade has been compensated for by a 14 per cent rise in scheduled services.

He says: "We have a low and a high estimate of 13 million and 16 million passengers a year in 1993 when our second terminal opens. "This year will not be a boom time and most airports will be happy just to stand still."

The airport is important to the economy of the north-west. More than 9,000 people work there and this could rise to 15,000 by 1995 on the formula that a million more passengers generate 1,000 extra jobs.

Manchester is responsible for 30 per cent of Britain's

charter market and flights now spread directly from the city around the globe.

This "world-friendly" image is represented by the new corporate logo launched this month to mark a new decade and a new phase in the airport's development.

Thompson says: "We have anticipated growth in the past and been fortunate. The runway was lengthened just before the first jumbos came in and it was the same with car parking and other facilities."

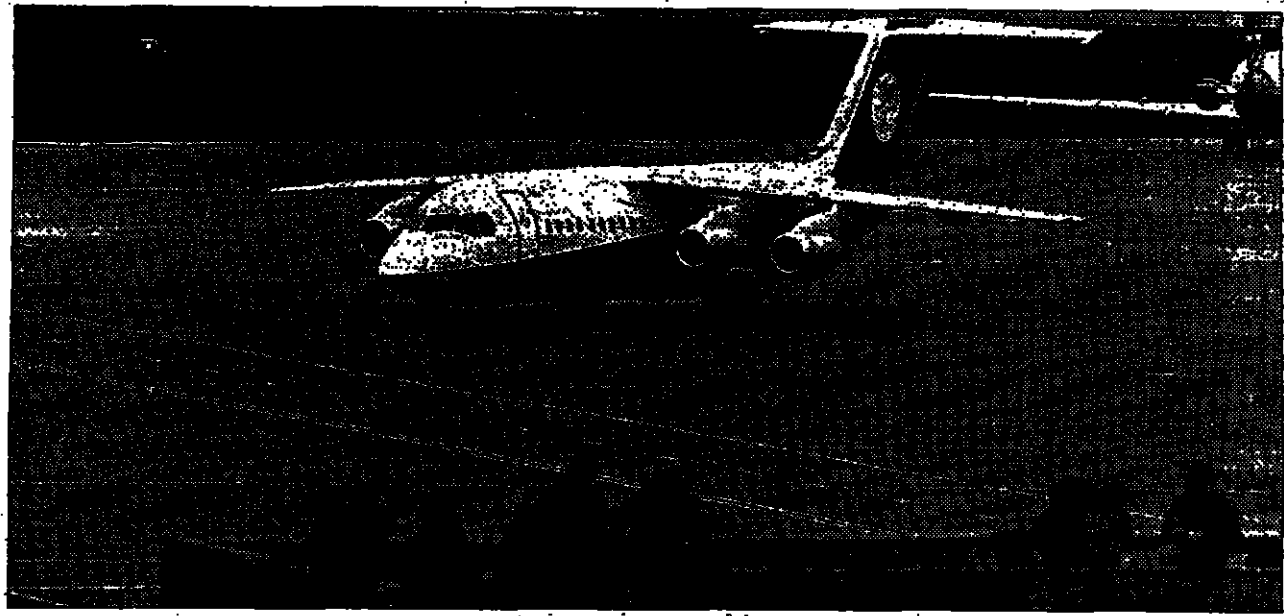
"We still have to anticipate the market. We cannot delay until there are six million passengers waiting for the traffic to serve them. We can find all the developments with internally generated resources. There are no hand-outs from the Government."

Thompson says it is sophisticated marketing targeted at a 20 million catchment area plus an impressive choice of services that persuades north-easterners to use Manchester rather than their local airport. Twenty-five per cent of Manchester's traffic comes from Yorkshire but it is the future, deregulated international business that gives Thompson the greatest sense of optimism.

"Maintaining the business we already have is important but really it is the world that is our oyster," he says.

"Remember that American tourists spend on average £587 each and only 12 per cent of Americans hold passports. Fewer than 5 per cent of Japanese have ever flown, and think of the potentially huge market that will open up in Eastern Europe. With cheaper flights that is the business we will be going after."

Ronald Faux



Friendly to the environment: a BAe 146 "silent jet" in the Dan Air fleet touches down. The airport insists on the quieter aircraft.

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## How the reject has become a hub for Europe

Ronald Faux on the plan to create a focal point for flights

When Captain Ivan Smirnov landed his Fokker XII at Manchester in 1934 to survey the airport he was not mightily impressed. His objective was to survey the airfield on the KLM airline's behalf for a scheduled service between the city and Amsterdam. It was, he decided, quite unsuitable and KLM continued using Liverpool, linking with the transatlantic ocean services.

The rejection stung the city council into finding a site that would have satisfied the critical captain. Four years later, Ringway Airport opened. Manchester Barton remains much the same, a busy centre for private flying and training with grass runways, propwash waving the hedgerows and the buzz of light aircraft climbing north over the M6.

Manchester Ringway followed an entirely different historical route, and a mere 56 years on, Smirnov would be astonished at the changes he provoked. Manchester is in the first division of international airports, attracting the traffic that allows it to be mentioned in the same breath as Schiphol. It is the hub, not a mere spoke serving Heathrow and Gatwick.

But Manchester is a tightly contained airport, a "small package", as one airport manager described it, 1,500 acres. Like Gatwick it has a single runway and there seems little chance of adding another as the planners have put a green belt around the perimeter that cannot be violated.

The airport board is confident that the expected surge in passenger and freight traffic in the 1990s can be served by the existing runway and the extra passenger and freight facilities under construction.

Gatwick has estimated its capacity with one runway at 27 million passengers a year. Manchester believes its single runway will be enough for the 21 million to 23 million passengers who could be using the airport by the turn of the century. More significant will be the motorway system feeding Manchester and its success at providing services that attract business away from the regional Liverpool, Birmingham, East Midlands and Leeds-Bradford airports.

In April the Manchester Interline hub project will be launched, creating a network of scheduled services with Manchester as a focal point and linking main airports in Europe and Britain. Already Manchester handles more internal flights than any other British airport. Facilities are arranged to speed passengers smoothly between airlines, and interlining in the United States shows this stimulates business even for airlines in aggressive competition with one another and increases the frequency of service discounts the inconvenience of interlining in Manchester.

The airport board believes the time is ripe to launch the venture as Manchester is now used by more than 10 million passengers a year and more than 100 airlines. It is rich in customers but not to the point of saturation.

For a year the marketing team has worked closely with key airlines to co-ordinate flights. In practice this has meant some changes and juggling with arrival and departure times to allow flight transfers. Special passenger and baggage transfer systems will be introduced to reduce minimum connection times.

The planners say that when the potential is understood and the results of interline co-operation become tangible, other carriers will want to become involved, enabling Manchester to pull in traffic to support services that would otherwise be uneconomic.

## The science of keeping quiet

The airport is trying to be a good neighbour, reducing noise and pollution

Manchester Airport's dramatic expansion will depend essentially on the ever-widening separation of two graph lines. One line tracks the sharply increasing number of departing passengers, the other shows the noise from the aircraft carrying them (Ronald Faux writes). The airport benefits from being close to its main market, the industrial north, and being enmeshed by motorways, but the penalty is a concentration of communities below the flight path.

Any tendency for the two graphs to follow each other upwards in parallel would seriously inhibit growth. The airport's board this month passed a wide-ranging policy for the next decade, covering all things environmental — from wild flowers to encouraging airlines to phase out older, noisier aircraft. Airlines that offend the prescribed noise levels are fined, and from its position as a desirable destination, Manchester may even remove operating slots from the offenders.

The airport has spent £10 million on its environmental protection programme, including £1 million a year in grants for sound insulation in 12,000 properties close by. This is claimed to be the most generous programme of its kind in Britain.

A scheme has been introduced to compensate householders whose properties have suffered vortex damage from the winged juggernauts passing overhead. The detail extends to deciding which trees are most suitable within the airport boundary. The number of bird strikes reported has fallen — even though traffic levels have doubled — by the simple expedient of planting trees on which birds find it more difficult to perch and by bombarding them with the alarm calls of their own species.



An eye on the environment: Dr Callum Thomas and the noise-reducing engine-testing unit, a steel arena that swallows sound as engines are run at full power

The pastoral quiet of the nearby River Bollin has been preserved by digging a new course for it outside the airport boundary.

Dr Callum Thomas, the environmental control manager, lists other measures the management is taking to maintain the airport as an acceptable neighbour.

Today Manchester has become Britain's first big airport to operate a noise-reducing engine-testing unit. This is a £1.5 million steel arena designed acoustically to swallow sound. It surrounds the aircraft to be tested on three sides. The engines can then be run at full power, an operation that would normally shake nearby houses to their foundations, but the roar is muted.

By the time it has penetrated double glazing and mingled with the normal sounds of home or office, the racket has become inoffensive. Aircraft taking off — the most intrusive part of any flight — must follow a flight

path that causes the least disturbance to those below. It is an optimum line over the rooftops that balances safety against annoyance.

Not all pilots obey, but a newly installed £200,000 surveillance system, the first to be at a British civil airport, plots the track of every departing aircraft.

Airlines are likely to be fined or penalized if their aircraft stray from the path or offend any of the 16 noise-monitoring stations in south Manchester and Cheshire. These are linked to computers at the airport and give a flight number and decibel level for every culprit.

But noise is not the airport's only concern while traffic swells, from 150,735 last year to perhaps 329,000 by the turn of the century.

Increasing European anxiety over air quality could be expected to act against the future development of airports as environmental attention swings from cars to aircraft.

However much the public wants the benefit of swift

international travel, and as newer, quieter jets solve the problems of noise, surveys reveal growing concern over the pollution they emit.

The supposed fall of "acid rain" has become an issue in the development of both Gatwick and Stansted Airports and the management at

Manchester is acutely aware that environmental concern could be the most powerful brake on further development.

A project to study water pollution near the airport will start this year and environmental scientists have set up the Oxis system, which automatically analyses air quality

in the area around the airport. Such pre-emptive action is surely wise.

Thomas points out: "Over the next 10 to 15 years, there will be a 75 per cent reduction in vehicle emissions."

"Aviation cannot hope to escape from the same sort of pressure."

## TOGETHER WE'RE HANDLING RECORD TRAFFIC

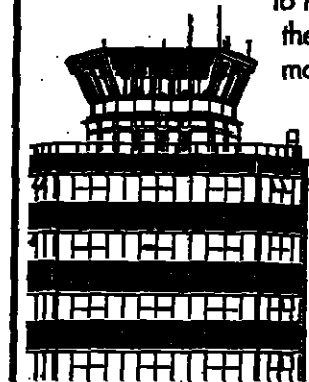
The Civil Aviation Authority congratulates Manchester Airport on its continuing success.

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To meet the expected future growth in demand at the Airport and in the region, the CAA is investing more than £5 million to provide Manchester with the best in modern equipment and facilities.

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## Building for the next 13 million customers

The most visible mark of Manchester's promotion to the top league among the world's airports will be the second terminal, now being built, which will double capacity by the year 2000 (Ronald Faux writes). By then, the project will have cost at least £600 million. It is a dramatic record of glass and steel: the size of 13 football pitches, able to handle up to 13 million passengers a year, while retaining, its designers say, human in scale.

The terminal will be self-contained with its own motorway access. A £25 million rail link with Manchester city centre will provide three trains an hour and regular direct services from Bolton, Preston, Blackpool and the

West Yorkshire conurbations covering Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Leeds.

The first phase of the terminal, among the largest civil-engineering projects in the North of England, is due to be completed in April 1993, increasing passenger handling capacity to 18 million a year.

The building has been designed by the architects Scott, Brownrigg and Turner. AMEC is the management contractor and Taylor Woodrow the management consultant to the Manchester Airport company.

Freight business is important to the development plans and the airport's balance sheet. More facilities are being built to promote more of this

business, which has grown threefold in the past decade.

Gill Thompson, the airport's chief executive, says the Manchester cargo centre has become the nation's freight capital; more than 60 per cent of British manufacturing is within two hours' drive.

Last year, 83,600 tons of freight and mail were handled but the general growth in traffic could increase this to 250,000 tons. Only a quarter was carried on flights devoted purely to freight.

The rest went in the holds of passenger flights, although the north was unable to match the low rates available in London for the lucrative

transatlantic freight trade. As there are 700 flights from London to the United States for every 36 from Manchester, competition cut the consolidated rate for freight to between 20p and 22p a kilo against 60p to send goods from Manchester.

Volume also allowed London airports to benefit from many more discounted and promotional flights than Manchester.

Thompson is philosophical about that. "We have to convince the airlines that the world does not begin and end in the south-east," he says. "Secure the flights, and you will have the cheaper fares. First get the chicken, and the egg will follow."

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## INFORMATION SERVICE

## Well travelled virtuosos



Tonight the Takács Quartet continue Part 2 of the Barbican Centre's Contemporary Recitals series with Mozart's Quartet K 464, Brahms's Quartet Op 67 and Bartók's short, highly concentrated Quartet No 3. Like Bartók, the members of the Takács Quartet are Hungarian, and all studied at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. They formed their ensemble in 1975, and have won first prizes at international competitions in places as far apart as Evian and Paris. They appear regularly throughout Europe and the USA, and have held a residency at the University of Colorado since 1986. In September 1988 a quartet of Amati instruments was made available to

the Takács team by the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC, these having originally been constructed for the French Royal family, perhaps for Louis XIV. The following month, October 1988, the Takács Quartet began a three-year residency at the Barbican Centre during which besides giving concerts, in the Barbican Hall, they teach and conduct master classes next door at the Guildhall School of Music. Takács interpretations have been praised for their sensitivity to line and texture, for their wide range of tone, and always their well defined sense of musical purpose. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891), 7.45pm, £7.50. Max Harrison

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

**BOOKING KEY**  
★ Seats available  
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THEATRE  
LONDON

★ **ANYTHING GOES:** Elaine Paige getting a kick out of Cole Porter's hit musical: shipboard romance, intrigue and 'You're the Top'. Prince Edward Theatre, Old Compton St, W1 (01-734 8851). Tue: Lobster Squares. Mon-Sat 7.30-8.45pm, mat 2.30-4.45pm, £9-22. (D)

★ **BUS STOP:** Jerry Hall plays Cherie, the nightclub singer, waiting for the bus at a Kansas diner, with Sean Connery as David Hest. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3866). Tue: Piccadilly. Preview tonight 8pm, opens tomorrow 7-9pm. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8-10pm and 8.45-10.45pm. Reviews 24-210, from Feb 25-216. (D)

★ **DIVERSIONS AND DELIGHTS:** Oscar Wilde looks back on his life in Donald Sinden's one-man show. Limited season. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tue: Embroidment. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, 25-216. (D)

★ **EXCHANGE:** Martin Jarvis heads the cast in Michael Frayn's translation of long-running Moscow hit by Trifonov: fast-searching and heart-searching in modern Soviet Union. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-839 9887). Tue: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.45-10.15pm, Sat 8.15-10.25pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.10pm, 25-216.50.

★ **MAN OF THE MOMENT:** Michael Gambon and Peter Bowles superb in Ayckbourn's masterly harsh comedy: mood meets evil on the Costa del Sol. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 3867). Tue: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 7.45-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-11pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.30pm, 25-216.50.

★ **MISS SAIGON:** Great new musical, with Jonathan Pryce: thrillingly staged. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (01-839 5108). Tue: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm, 25-216.50.

★ **RACING DEMON:** Richard Eyre directs David Hare's new play with Michael Bryant as one of a group of London clergymen trying to do good in their inner-city parish. National Theatre (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (01-828 2252). Tue: Westside. Tonight, tomorrow, Wed 7.30pm, mat 2.30-5.15pm, 25-216.50, in repertory. (D)

★ **SAY HALLELUJAH:** Jimi Rand's comedy, about a grocer whose wife finds religion, opens the South Black Theatre Season. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (01-748 3354). Tue: Hammermith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 25-216. (D)

★ **SIDE POCKETS:** But Caesar directs new play set in a Harlem pool hall in the summer of 1938 while Joe Louis fights Max Schmeling in the Yankee Stadium. Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (01-534 0310). Tue: Stratford. Mon-Sat 8pm, 25-216. (D)

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales Theatre (01-839 5872). ★ Cats: New Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassador Theatre (01-836 8111). ★ Me and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7813). ★ Les Misérables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0008). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-839 0143). ★ Rain For Your Wife: Whitehall Theatre (01-867 1119). ★ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8865).

## OUT OF TOWN

★ **CANTERBURY:** ★ Hilda Watson: Joanne Heywood and Frederick Pym in touring production of the 1912 serious comedy that dared to suggest that women should have as free a love-life as men. Marlborough Theatre, The Friars (0227 767246). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, 25-28.80. (D)

## FILMS

★ **Also on national release**  
★ **Adventure** looking possible. **BLAZE** (1987) Colorama from writer-director Ron Shelton, with Paul Newman in commanding form as ageing Louisiana governor Earl Long, innocently in love with a stripper (newcomer Lotta Davidovich) (118 mins). Cannon Homevideo (01-839 1927). Progs 2.10, 5.30, 8.30, 8.35. Odeon Kewington (01-802 6644). Progs 12.30, 3.10, 5.50, 8.35. Odeon Serica Cottage (01-722 5906). Progs 2.10, 5.30, 8.10.

★ **Casualties of War** (1988): American atrocities in Vietnam, viewed through the eyes of Brian De Palma, with Michael J. Fox as the soldier standing apart from the brutal antics of Sean Penn (114 mins). Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 12.30, 3.25, 6.05, 8.35.

★ **DRIVING MISS DAISY** (Up): Sweet, endearing film of Alfred Ury's play about a refined Southern lady (Jessica Tandy) and her black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Nominated for nine Oscars; directed by Bruce Beresford. Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 1.50, 4.05, 6.25, 8.45.

★ **FAMILY BUSINESS:** Comedy-drama drawn upon a novel by Vincent Patrick with Sean Connery and Dustin Hoffman as members of a family of crime (110 mins). Odeon Leicester Square (01-830 8111). Progs 12.06, 2.45, 5.35, 8.25.

★ **LOCK UP** (18): Sylvester Stallone trying to sort-out the brutality and brutality of a model prisoner faced with an untried and vengeful warden (108 mins). Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310). Progs 12.40, 3.15, 5.50, 8.25.

★ **SEA OF LOVE** (18): Superior thriller, crackling with electricity. All Pacific stars as a New York cop who becomes emotionally involved with a murder suspect (Ellen Barkin). Directed by Michael Winner. Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Progs 2.25, 5.40, 8.20.

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★ **NUOVO STUPE:** Conducted as ever by Peter Lee-Cox, the Lescapade Ensemble gives us C Che Nuovo Stupor, Telemann's *Lauter Wonne*, *Lauter Freude*, with sonatas by Popescu, Vivaldi.

★ **LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR:** Opera 60s young cast are over-stretched in a nevertheless dramatically powerful production, conducted by Ivor Bolton and now on tour in the West Country. Queens Theatre, Bathurst, (021-930 6125). Progs 7.30-10.15pm, 25-28. (D)

★ **THE BARBER OF SEVILLE:** Travelling Opera's lively revival with Peter Knapp directing himself as Figaro. Parnassus Theatre, Chichester (0248 234833). 7.30-10.30pm, £3.50 and £4.50.

## JAZZ

★ **1900 BRITISH JAZZ:** EXTRA VAGANZA: Opening date of a 31-date tour by the bands of Kenny Ball, Acker Bilk and Kenny Ball, with guest artists including George Chisholm. Parnassus Theatre, Chichester (0248 234833). 7.30-10.30pm, £3.50 and £4.50.

★ **OFF ASSEY ROAD:** First of two nights from The Miller Woodcock Band, re-working the music of The Beatles. Electric Cinema, Portobello Road, London W1 (01-792 2020). 8pm, £3.50.

★ **DANISH RADIO BIG BAND:** In residence for a week with Thad Jones arrangements and occasional nods to the players' early mentor, Sam Kantant. Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Fifth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747). 9.30pm, £10 (members £2).

## OPERA

★ **BEATRICE AND BENEDICT:** Ethna Farnham and Philip Langridge in English National Opera's handsome and

musical new Barlow production, now conducted by Lionel Friend. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 8161). 7.30-10.30pm, £3-23. (D)

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★ **OFF ASSEY ROAD:** First of two nights from The Miller Woodcock Band, re-working the music of The Beatles. Electric Cinema, Portobello Road, London W1 (01-792 2020). 8pm, £3.50.

★ **DANISH RADIO BIG BAND:** In residence for a week with Thad Jones arrangements and occasional nods to the players' early mentor, Sam Kantant. Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Fifth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747). 9.30pm, £10 (members £2).

★ **DAVE EDWARDS:** Producer and broadcaster, Edwards is making a rare solo appearance accompanied by a specially convened 13-piece band including Graham Parker, Terry Williams (of Dire Straits), Dion and the La Bamba Horns. Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-264 0303), 7pm, £9.50.

★ **THE BLUE AEROPLANES:** Bristol veterans of the independent scene, whose superb major label debut *Swagger*, with its invigorating mess of chiming guitars, belies a variable and rather self-conscious stage show.

★ **THE STRANGERS:** Reformed betes noires of the punk era, back in the chart with a sparkling new version of the bubblegum lament "96 Tears". Crawley Leisure Centre, Haslett Avenue (0293 37431), 7.30pm, £3.

★ **LA BAYADERE:** Natalia Makarova's production for the Royal Ballet opens a short tour. Birmingham Hippodrome (021 6227486), 7.30pm, £8.50-22. (D)

★ **ALFREDO:** Paul Taylor's lyrical work to Handel music, Bournemouth Flower Festival, Bournemouth, 71 Vicar Lane, Bournemouth (01202 45329), 7.30pm, £2.50-23. (D)

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**WALKS**  
POLITICAL LONDON: GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT: West Westminster tube, 11.30am, £3.50 (01-937 4281).  
HAUNTED LONDON: A LATE NIGHT GHOST WALK: West Temple tube, 8pm, £3.50 (01-637 4281).  
THE LEGENDARY WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: Mead Baker Street tube, 7.30, £3 (01-624 9581).

**OTHER EVENTS**  
THE PARK LANE ARMS FAIR: Forty exhibitors selling antique arms and armour, picnic, guns and swords, specialist books and other related items. The Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London, W1. Today 2pm-8pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Admission £5 includes catalogue.  
JOHN LOGIE BARRIE: Exhibition about one of the Century's most influential writers and celebrates his inventions and celebrates his remarkable achievements. The exhibition was initiated by Strathclyde University, where Barrie was a student. Collins Gallery, Glasgow. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 12-4pm. Until Mar 24.

WEST SOHO GETS FIT: (see picture below)  
Various venues, West Soho, London W1. Today until March 3.

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WEST SOHO GETS FIT: (see picture below)



**Peter Waymark**

● Officially it is a psychiatric institution, but for Bob Groves, who runs a charity for the mentally ill in Britain, it is more like a concentration camp. The bodies are not as emaciated as in those appalling newsreels from Auschwitz or Belzen but many of the faces have the same haunted look and there is a similar lack of concern for human dignity. The site of this "vision of hell" (another phrase from Groves) is the Greek island of Fieros, where 1,100 men, women and children spend their life in an asylum in exile. Some are mentally ill and some physically handicapped. Others have nothing wrong with them but are victims of family tragedies. Jane Gabriel's documentary *Island of Outcasts* (Channel 4, 9.00pm) is a report from the front line which spares us little. In one block



**an inmate of the mental asylum on the  
Greek island of Leros (Ch4, 9.00pm)**

men go to bed in the clothes they wear and up in the morning they have no possessions and no privacy as the lights stay on all night. In ancient times, men could not even have the dignity of clothing. They are herded out into a yard to be punished. The inmates of Leros are victims not so much of their own disabilities but of Greek society, the Greek psychiatric establishment and international bureaucracy. Six years ago a joint Greek and European Community commission investigated conditions on Leros and recommended that the asylum should be closed. Some £2 million was allocated from the community's social fund. But nothing much has happened. A little of the money has been spent. Meanwhile, a modest reform programme instituted with encouraging results in the "pavilion of the naked" was abandoned after five months for lack of

**World in Action** (ITV, 8.30pm) enters the great British beef controversy and suggests that despite the best efforts of authorities here to play things down in West Germany may have some cause to be concerned. On the advice of the concerned doctor, has withdrawn all hamburgers and beef sausages from the children's meals. Another doctor reckons there is little risk from lean beef or milk as he says he avoids sausages and meat which contain large quantities of fat. The danger with this sort of programme, in which the views of experts are in clear conflict, is that the viewers can end up more confused than before. In the end we can only weigh the arguments and make up our own minds.

## SATELLITE

**SKY ONE**

0.00am International Business Report  
0.30am European Business Channel 6.00 DJ  
0.30am Panel Post Pouri 10.00 The  
New Price Is Right 10.30 The Young  
Doctors 11.00 Sky By Day 12.00  
12.00 The World 1.00 News As The World Turns  
1.00 Loving 2.30 A Problem Shared  
2.00 Cricket: West Indies v England: third  
day of the First Test 10.00 Jamison  
1.00 Sky News 11.30 The Invisible Man

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**SKY NEWS**

News on the hour.  
0.00am International Business Report  
0.30am European Business Channel 6.00  
0.30am European Business Report 10.30 Those  
Who Fly The Days 11.30 International  
News 12.00am Sky News 1.00am NBC Today  
1.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Parliament Live  
3.30 NBC Today 5.00 Live At Five 6.30  
6.30am Beyond 7.00 The Reporters 8.30  
8.30am Frank Bought 10.30 The  
Reporters 11.30 NBC Nightly News  
12.30am Frank Bought 1.30am Newsline  
2.30 The Reporters 3.30 Frank Bought  
3.30am Newsline

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**SKY MOVIES**

All films will be scrambled  
from 8.00am The Shopping Channel  
0.00am Light Day (1987): Michael  
Fox as a factory worker by who plays  
rock 'n' roll by night  
0.00 Yabba Dabba Doo Celebration:  
animated adventure with the Flintstones  
0.30am Radio (1987): Woody Allen  
recounts and narrates this tale set in the  
1940s, the period in which radio, rather  
than television, dominated family life  
0.30am Jane and the Last City (1987):  
Jane on an expedition to a prehistoric  
map character, Jane is dispatched to  
mine in search of diamonds to help save  
the Empire  
0.30am Babcock (1987): Peter Weller as a  
murdered cop, who is cybernetically  
reconstructed and let loose on the gangs of  
Detroit City  
0.30am Retribution (1987): A murdered  
gangster transfers his spirit into the body of  
a man who has just committed suicide to  
seek vengeance from his killers  
0.30am The Fourth Protocol (1986):  
Charles Caine as a British spy out to stop  
Soviet KGB's Russian agent  
mounting a nuclear device at an American  
base in Britain  
0.30am At the Pictures: Cinema releases  
0.30am Outrageous Fortune (1987): Bette  
Midler as a woman who is accused of  
murder but plot revenge against the man they  
were both once seeing. Ends at 5.30am

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**EUROSPORT**

0.00am As Sky One 8.30am Manu 8.00  
0.00am World Cup Nordic: Skiing 10.00 Football  
0.00am Horse Show 1.00pm Golf:  
Australian Masters 4.00am Horses 5.00 NHL  
0.00am Hockey: Edmonton Oilers v Calgary  
Gems 7.00am Coast - What A Week!  
0.00am International Motorsport 8.00  
0.00am Lannox Lewis (UK) v Proud  
0.00am Manjaro (Zimbabwe) 10.00 NHL Ice  
0.00am Sky 12.00 Golf: Australian Masters

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**MTV**

0.00am Kristiano Backer 10.30 At the  
Movies 11.00am Remote Control 11.30 Paul  
0.00am 3 from 1 4.15 Paul King  
0.00am Coca-Cola Report 4.45 Paul King  
0.00am Remote Control 5.30 Ray Cokes  
0.00am At the Movies 6.15 6.30 Ray Cokes  
0.00am Coca-Cola Report 10.15  
0.00am Wexu 11.00 Headbangers Ball  
0.00am Night Videos

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**SCREENSPORT**

0.00am Pro Bowlers 6.15 Spanish  
0.00am Ice Hockey 12.00 US PGA  
0.00am Rugby League 3.30 US  
0.00am Basketball 6.00 Powersports 6.00  
0.00am Basketball 7.30 Updates: Spanish  
0.00am US Football 10.00 Boxing 10.45  
0.00am Spain Sport 11.00 Motor Racing

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**LIFESTYLE**

0.00am Fitness Minute 10.01  
0.00am Tomorrow 10.30 Fashion File 10.35  
0.00am Alan Yvan v Collette v Alan  
0.00am Edge of Night 1.15 1.30  
0.00am Showdowns 12.50pm What's Cooking  
1.55 Sally Jessy Raphael 1.55 Skyways  
1.55 Search For Tomorrow 3.05 Tea  
3.10 3.15 Targeted v Computers 4.05  
4.05 Newsline 4.30 4.35 Your Lifestyle 4.45  
4.45am Gameshow

All information on satellite TV  
programmes is available in the weekly  
guide, TV Guide.

## RADIO CHOICE

**Fill Stereo and MW**  
News on the half-hour from  
6.30am until 4.30pm, then at  
7.30, 8.30 and 10.00pm  
8.00am Jadd Brambles 6.30  
Simon Mayo 9.30 Simon Bates  
12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45  
Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright in  
the Afternoon 5.30 News '90  
6.00 Mark Goodier 7.30 The Mike  
Read Collection 8.30 John Peel  
10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-  
2.00am Richard Skinner

**57** **7.00**

**FM Stereo and MW**  
**News on the hour**  
**Headlines 5:30am, 6:30,**  
**7:30, 8:30**  
**4:00am Alex Lester 5:30**  
**Chris Stuart 7:30 Derek Jameson**  
**8:30 Ken Bruce 11:00 Jimmy**  
**Young 1:00pm Don Black 2:30**  
**Georgia Hurnford 3:30 Adrian**  
**Love 5:05 John Dunn 7:30 Dance**  
**Band Days 7:30 Big Band Era**  
**8:00 The National Big Band**  
**Competition All Winners**  
**Concert (see Choice) 8:05 The**  
**Best of Jazz on Record 10:00**  
**The Clever Dick-Athlon 10:30**  
**Screenplay 11:00 Round**  
**Midnight 1:00am Nightride 3:00-**  
**4:00 A Little Night Music**

**WORLD SERVICE**

[illegible]

**6.55am Weather and News**  
**Headlines**  
**7.00 Morning Concert:**  
 Mendelssohn (*Overture, A Midsummer Night's Dream*;  
 LSO under Abbado); Bizet  
 (*Carmen, Suite No 1*; NBC  
 SO under Toscanini)  
**7.30 News**  
**7.35 Morning Concert (cont):**  
 Berlioz (*Overture, Le*  
*Corsaire*; Boston SO under  
 Munch); Debussy

## the

Swan Lake, Act 2; LSO under André Previn; Salt-N-Shells (The Swans) and Tortoise, cello, Shuku Terasaki, piano)

**6.30 News**

**6.35 Concerts of the Week:** Scandinavian Season. Gade and Svendsen. Svendsen (Symphony No 1 in D, Op 4; Gade, symphony SO under Järnkv. Gade (Everslund "The Fairy Spell, Part 1"; Soloists, Danish Opera Chorus and Orchestra under Johan Tjve-Knudsen)

**6.35 Morning Sequences:** G.W. Marx, attrib Brahms (Souvenir du la Russie, for piano); Dun Crommelynck; Borodin (Piano Trio in D; Ronald Thomas, violin, Rajniw Weiss, cello, Antonio Goldenro, piano); Mozart (Horn Concerto in D; Hanser Studio under Roy Gosselin, with Anthony Halsstead; Schubert (Quintet in A "Trout," D 667; Zoltan Kocsis, piano; Members of the Quartette Farnes Comites, double-bass); Bux (Triolet Ustler Orchestra under Thomson); Vaughan Williams (The Song of the Cleveland Symphonic Winds under Frederick Kunkel); Jaroslaw (In the Mist, Peter Laro, piano); Bux (In Volka Storm; LPO under Elyon Thompson); Taverner (The Great Church of the Church Cathedral Choir under Stephen Derlington)

**7.15 Schoenberg and Berg** BSC Philharmonic under Edward Downes performs Schoenberg (Six songs, Op 6); Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in A)

**7.30 News**

**7.45 BSC Luncline Concert:** Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Furt (The Violin, Michael Muntari, piano, perform Schubert (Sonata in A minor, D 821 "Arpeggios"; Shostakovich (Sonata, Op 147)

**2.05 Music Weekly (r)**  
**3.00-10.30pm Test Match**  
**Special (FM only):** West  
 Indies v England. First  
 Cable and Wireless Test  
 from Kingston, Jamaica.  
 Commentary on the third  
 day's play  
**3.00 Ulster Orchestra (FM only):**  
 Under Jacek Kasprzyk, with  
 Vanya Milanova, violin,  
 performs Beethoven  
 (Overture, Leonora No 1:

**57** **7.00**

**4.30** Haydn Trio (Full only):  
Bridget St John, John Spohr  
(Trio in A minor) (2)

**5.30** Mainly for Pleasure (Full  
only): With Roger Nichols  
and the City of London Sinfonia

**7.00** Third Earl (Full only): Ronald  
Hayman in conversation  
with the poet Kenneth  
Miles, whose poem is the  
translation of *Peer Gynt* he  
has just opened at the National  
Theatre

**7.30** Swedish RSO (Full only):  
Scandinavian Session. Esa-  
Pekka Salonen conducts  
Brahms (Variations on a  
Theme by Haydn),  
Schumann (Cello Concerto  
in A minor: with Toralf  
Thøden, cello); Nielsen  
(Symphony No 3 'Sinfonia  
op. 32' with Pär-Martin  
Nilsson, soprano, Ole  
Persson, baritone)

**8.00** Scandinavian Session. From  
discussions with politicians,  
writers and artists, the  
artists, Gunnar Persson  
tests the strength of  
Swedish society

**8.45** Polish Music  
Southampton new series  
(Full only until 10.30):  
Music and Interviews made  
between 1988

Southampton International  
New Music Week are  
presented by John Casken,  
the first of the  
programmes. Lutoslawski  
and Stachowicz discuss  
their music, and reactions to  
that by the composers  
and the pianists  
Professors Peter Evans,  
Adrian Thomas, and some  
young composers.

Interviews under Guy  
Pritchard performs  
Lutoslawski (Silesia, Dance  
Fragments); Gwyn Pritchard  
(Machleg); Lutoslawski  
(Chamber Concerto for  
orchestra); Stachowicz  
(piano); Marek Stachowicz  
(Chamber Concerto)

**1.00** Composers of the West:  
Scandinavian Session. Grieg  
(Full only)

**1.00** News 12.05am Close

**W (s) Stereo on FM**  
**5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00**  
**News Briefing; Weather**  
**6.10 Farming Today**  
**6.25 Prayer for the Day with Dr**  
**John Morgans 6.30 Today,**  
**with Sue MacGregor and**  
**Peter Hobday, incl 6.30,**  
**7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30**  
**News 6.55, 7.55 Weather**  
**8.35 The Week on 4**  
**9.42 Archive Adventure: The**  
**Truth Within. The last of**

**57** **7.00**

**003** News  
Start the Week! Melvyn  
Brosky with guest  
Professor Peter Conrad,  
Michael Heath, writer David  
Bodanis and Dr Anne  
Jackson (s)  
01:00 News; Money Box (r)  
The Morning Story: The  
Successor, by Paul Bowles.  
Read by Philip Voss (s)  
01:30 Daily Service  
01:45 News; Down your Way:  
Port Roger Moorhead  
explores Portnebelle Road,  
where he has lived for  
twenty years (r)  
02:00 Poetry Pleased Presented  
by the BBC with guest  
Carol Ann Duffy  
02:30 News; You and Yours with  
John Howard  
03:00 The British Quiz:  
Chaired by Louis Allen and  
Gordon Clough. Maurice  
Allen and Paddy Fitzpatrick  
lead the teams and change the  
resident team of Irene  
Thomas and Eric Korn (s)  
12:55 Weather  
The World at One with  
James Naughtie  
The Archers (r) 1.55  
Shipping Forecast (r)  
News; Woman's World (r)  
Presented by Jenni Murray.  
A feature on the 75-year  
history of the *Woman's*  
magazine. An interview with  
jeweller Slim Barrett who  
makes body jewellery and  
an item on a new rock 'n'  
roll band called Carcass  
04:00 The Unfortunates  
Pursey: Dramatisation of  
Mervyn Wall's novel. Stated  
(Tina Turner) (see page 4)  
change a medieval monastery  
in search of Pursey's soul  
With an item on Pursey  
and a *Future Radio* (s)  
Gentle (s) (r) (see Choice)  
04:30 Kaleidoscope: A Caracer  
on the Stage - You Must Be  
Joking (s) (r)

**5.00** PM with Valerie Singleton and Hugh Sykes. Includes a report from Fergal Keane in Northern Ireland on *The Times*/PM Environment Award (Entries close March 9)  
**5.50** Shipping Forecast  
**5.55** Weather  
**6.00** Six O'Clock News; Financial Report  
**6.30** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue: Special label edition of the humorous panel game. With

before them is

The Food Programme  
presented by Derek Cooper

1.46 The Monday Play: The  
Isidore Production, by Bruce  
Stewart. The Spanish  
Inquisition was at its most  
ferocious in 1492... With  
Michael N. Harbour as  
Christopher, Caroline Gruber as  
Rebecca and Bill Brille as  
the Master Inquisitor (s)

1.18 Kaleidoscope: Paul  
Gambacorta meets author  
Andrew Maspin and  
reviews his book *Save Us  
Your review of Single  
Again*. Dile Kean's one-  
woman show at the Kings  
Road Theatre, Islington.  
Oliver Stone's latest film on  
Vietnam, *Born on the 4th of  
July*, is reviewed by Don  
Aiken and a feature on Lari  
Pesk, guest conductor with  
the Liverpool Philharmonic  
Orchestra, which is  
celebrating its 150th  
anniversary (s)

1.48 The Financial World Tonight  
1.50 The World Tonight  
1.52 A Book at bedtime: *Sink  
Heart River*, by John  
Gardner. The book is read by  
Trevor Royle and read by  
Paul Young (6) (s)

1.58 The Burrows Way: The Last  
Days of the Weathers. Comedies with  
Jo Kendall. Nigel Rens  
Chris Emmott and Fred  
Kane (3 of 6) (s) (r)


1.59 The News in Parliament  
10.00-12.30 News, and 12.30  
Weather 12.33 Shipping  
Forecast (s) except  
12.35-12.40 For Schools  
12.45 Learning Corner (s-s)

1.59 The News for Schools 3.45-4.55  
(cont) 11.12-12.10 Open  
University. 11.30 Open Forum  
12.50 The Enlightenment;  
National Orchestra 12.30-12.50  
Night School

m:1069k/z/277m:VHF-93-90.2  
r:58-90.2. Radio 3: 12510k/z/  
m:VHF-92-95. World Service  
m:1152k/z/261m: VHF 102.5  
VHF 97.9

**Peter Davalle**

AND G  
F. 65



...vours: **Fesella Fielding as she-devil (Radio 4, 3.00pm)**

...mining sulphur. Is there any other woman's voice on radio ever designed to lure men away from the straight and narrow? If there is, I should like to know whose. Therefore, the most striking parallel in Christina Reid's adaptation of Mervyn Wall's classic novel is that Fielding's she-devil has such a strating time of it trying to seduce the unfortunate Fursey — a 17th-century monk, reviled by the corrupted ecclesiastical establishment — to sell his soul in exchange for favours offered. Another novel feature about the wild and wonderful Faust-tale is that devil's adroitness is practised not by one sly minx but by Old Satan himself.

...the All Winners Concert (Radio 2, 8.00pm) brings to us this year's National Big Band Competition, jointly sponsored by Radio 2 and local radio stations and, of course, a huge success.

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# Prices rising as Berlin wall-peckers ply their trade

# Executive Editor David Brewerton

## CHANGE ON WEEK

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.7085 (+0.002)  
 W German mark 2.8635 (+0.0155)  
 Exchange index 90.2 (-0.5)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1762.5 (+14.2)  
 FT-SE 100 2235.1 (+35.2)  
 USM (Datstream) 150.5 (-4.32)

## Both sides confident as Norfolk bid closes

By Chris Gifford

The City has been told that the bid for the Norfolk Island group of islands is now closed. The bid was made by the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) and the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) and the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC).

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## Laing brings out defence against P&O

Laing Properties has been accused of being in a position of conflict of interest in respect of the proposed acquisition of P&O.

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## Bid message

Shuttle to the airport is a message to the public that the bid is now open.

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## Hartwell drive

A previous report by the Hartwell drive has been confirmed.

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## Unilever buy

Unilever has bought a 10% stake in the food company.

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## Tourist rates

Tourist rates	1985	1986	1987
London	5.95	5.95	5.95
Paris	6.25	6.25	6.25
Rome	6.50	6.50	6.50
Madrid	6.75	6.75	6.75
Barcelona	6.95	6.95	6.95
Amsterdam	7.15	7.15	7.15
Brussels	7.35	7.35	7.35
Frankfurt	7.55	7.55	7.55
Munich	7.75	7.75	7.75
Stuttgart	7.95	7.95	7.95
Düsseldorf	8.15	8.15	8.15
Cologne	8.35	8.35	8.35
Dortmund	8.55	8.55	8.55
Essen	8.75	8.75	8.75
Duisburg	8.95	8.95	8.95
Münster	9.15	9.15	9.15
Bielefeld	9.35	9.35	9.35
Paderborn	9.55	9.55	9.55
Bielefeld	9.75	9.75	9.75
Bielefeld	9.95	9.95	9.95
Bielefeld	10.15	10.15	10.15
Bielefeld	10.35	10.35	10.35
Bielefeld	10.55	10.55	10.55
Bielefeld	10.75	10.75	10.75
Bielefeld	10.95	10.95	10.95
Bielefeld	11.15	11.15	11.15
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Bielefeld	18.15	18.15	18.15
Bielefeld	18.35	18.35	18.35
Bielefeld	18.55	18.55	18.55
Bielefeld	18.75	18.75	18.75
Bielefeld	18.95	18.95	18.95
Bielefeld	19.15	19.15	19.15
Bielefeld	19.35	19.35	19.35



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Executive Editor  
David Brewerton  
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND  
US dollar  
1.7085 (+0.0105)  
W German mark  
2.8635 (+0.0185)  
Exchange Index  
90.2 (+0.5)

STOCK MARKET  
FT 30 Share  
1762.3 (-74.3)  
FT-SE 100  
2236.7 (-89.2)  
USM (Datastream)  
150.89 (-4.32)

### Both sides confident as Norfolk bid closes

By Our City Staff

The Queens Moat Houses bid for Norfolk Capital, the hotel and clubs group, closes at 1pm today. Both sides are confident of victory.

After last week's slide in the Queens Moat share price, the all-share bid is worth £165 million, compared with the £184 million at which it started. Queens Moat has bought 9.9 per cent of Norfolk, the maximum allowed under takeover rules. It can also count on the 8 per cent owned by Lord Joseph and Mr Anthony Good, Norfolk's former non-executive directors. In addition, Mr Peter Tyrie's Balmoral International, which owns 13 per cent of Norfolk, has indicated that it will accept the Queens Moat offer. But Mr Peter Eyles, Norfolk's managing director, believes Norfolk's army of more than 20,000 private shareholders will reject the bid. He said yesterday: "It's going to be quite close but I don't think anyone wants to be ripped off - and that's what they would be." Queens Moat's bid is worth 38p per Norfolk share compared with a net asset valuation of 53p.

Balmoral trail, page 27

### Laing brings out defence against P&O

Laing Properties will today publish its defence document in response to the £441 million cash bid from Pall Mall Properties, a joint venture between P&O and Chelmsfield. Mr Brian Chilver, Laing chairman, said the document marks the beginning of a positive campaign to keep Laing independent. "We shall explain how good the company is and how good its prospects are," he said. Pall Mall, which is offering 650p a share, has 22.8 per cent of Laing shares, while the Laing board and family and charitable trusts speak for about 38 per cent.

### Bid message

Sketchley this week publishes its defence document in connection with the hostile £127 million takeover bid from Godfrey Davis. It is expected to give further information on the slump in profits forecast for the year ending in March.

Tempos, page 26

### Hartwell drive

A petition signed by 1,400 employees and customers of Hartwell, the motor distributor, was delivered to Mr Peter Huggins, chairman, at the weekend, urging the board to reject the £172 million bid from Jameel and to fight to stay independent.

### Unilever buy

Unilever, the food conglomerate, has paid £43.7 million for Mexico's state-owned Industrias Conasupo edible oil refinery and pasta making factory.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.36	2.38
Canada \$	0.71	0.72
Denmark Kr	6.46	6.48
France F	6.55	6.57
Germany M	2.36	2.38
Japan Yen	163.50	164.00
Netherlands Gld	3.36	3.38
Portugal Esc	200.48	201.00
Spain Ptas	166.36	167.00
Sweden Kr	10.46	10.48
Switzerland Fr	2.36	2.38
Turkey Lira	1.71	1.73
Yugoslavia Dnr	ref	ref

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

## Worry over Saatchi's future clouds share price



Louis-Dreyfus: black week

By Martin Waller

Shares in Saatchi & Saatchi, the debt-ridden advertising group, will come under renewed pressure on the stock market today, as investors continue to worry about the group's long-term future.

The shares have crashed from a 1988 high of 456p to just 138p by Friday's close, after an announcement that the group would not meet the market's profit forecasts for the current year.

The plummeting share price has again prompted talk of a takeover. Some market speculation even suggests that a Japanese agency may be interested in acquiring a minority stake.

The Stock Exchange is believed to be investigating sales of Saatchi shares before Friday's announcement from Mr Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive, which had analysts rushing to cut their estimates by more than £20 million.

The news came at the end of a black week for the Saatchi brothers' advertising empire, once the world's largest but now overtaken by WPP Group, its arch-rival.

The shares started the week at 225p, but the slide began with the publication of the latest annual accounts, which revealed that debt for the current year is likely to reach £250 million.

There is another £200 million hanging over the group in the form of a Euroconvertible rights issue, made in 1988 and redeemable in less than four years, and a further £120 million due in time as deferred payments for acquisitions.

Against this, analysts believe that in the year to the end of September, Saatchi is unlikely to make much in excess of £40 million before tax and has no chance of maintaining last year's 9p dividend payment. The company's directors themselves over the weekend would not guarantee a maintained payment.

Saatchi saw its shares changing hands at more than £7 before the 1987 market crash. Its troubles started with the acquisition of Ted Bates in the United States, for which many observers believe it overpaid. The acquisition was followed by defections of key staff and the loss of important clients.

Last week's big upset came after renewed reports of legal actions in California by aggrieved shareholders over the share price performance. This was followed by Mr

Louis-Dreyfus's statement that the entire industry faced a difficult year, and that profits would not meet expectations.

There was further concern at the delay in selling Saatchi's management consultancy division, which was set as the top priority by the chief executive on his appointment in October.

The company indicated over the weekend that this is not going as smoothly as had been hoped because of the trend against leveraged buyouts. It desperately needs the disposal to cut its huge mountain of debt.

## CBI reports weakening order books

By Our City Staff

Weakening manufacturers' order books are dampening prospects of price rises and jeopardizing further investment in industry, the CBI warns today.

The CBI's February trends survey shows a "significant decline" in the number of companies expecting to raise prices in the next four months, confirming industry's underlying gloom.

In the CBI survey, a balance of only 27 per cent of respondents anticipate higher factory gate prices - the lowest balance for the month in four years. In February last year, the balance was 32 per cent.

The CBI attributes the dampened expectations on the price front to continued order book weakness and the fierce competition this has fostered. One firm in three is now reporting total order books below normal, showing a significant weakening in demand in the past year.

The survey will do little to cheer a stock market already hard hit by heavy falls in Tokyo last week, and facing on Wednesday the last trade figures before the Budget.

With Wall Street continuing to fall after London closed on Friday, dealers return to work today anticipating a prolonged period of nervousness.

All eyes will be on Tokyo. Last week the Nikkei index fell by more than 7 per cent, after Japan's general election

returned the Liberal Democratic Party to government and brought with it the threat of higher interest rates.

On two days last week the Japanese market fell by about 1,000 points and twice London and New York shrugged off the falls with just modest slides. In London it is feared another big fall in Tokyo will make a far more serious correction in both the British and the US markets inevitable.

Over the weekend the Japanese authorities took steps to encourage Japan's financial institutions to support the Tokyo market when it reopened. But while the effectiveness of these share-support plans is now legendary, it will need more than one calm day to restore confidence.

The other main worry for investors is the current health of the German bond market. Last Monday, driven by activity in the London futures market, German bonds fell by about one and a half points on worries that reunification will lead to higher interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 index responded by falling 28.8 points, the first stage of a week-long fall of more than 89.

After the Nikkei's initially cautious 300-point drop on the day of the election result, it was last Wednesday's 1,100-point fall that sent shockwaves into the other markets. In London, the FT-SE 100 fell

by 17.3 and in New York the Dow Jones average fell by 13.2. On Friday the pattern was repeated, with Tokyo's 930-point fall followed by a 32-point fall in London and a 10-point fall in New York.

But City forecasters fear the introduction of the community charge, higher utility prices and other scheduled increases will this summer push the inflation rate above last year's 8.3 per cent peak.

As a bonus for the Government, steadier factory gate prices will help slow retail price growth, partly offsetting some of the substantial price rises in the pipeline.

Mr David Wigglesworth, CBI economic situation committee chairman, said: "This is good news for the consumer and for the fight against inflation." But he added that weakening demand is squeezing profits and investment - "bad news" for the future competitiveness of industry.

The main focus of attention this week should be the trade figures on Wednesday. The economy will grow slowly this year but should recover strongly next year, forecasts the London Business School. Inflation, however, will not fall below 5 per cent until 1992, (Rodney Lord, Economics Editor, writes).

The forecast shows the economy escaping recession this year but growing only 1 per cent. Next year growth will rise to 2.6 per cent and exceed 3 per cent the year after.



Taking over: James Watson, left, in Blackpool yesterday with Sir Peter Thompson, whom he is to succeed as head of NFC

## NFC chairman names successor

Sir Peter Thompson, chairman of NFC and pioneer of worker share ownership, yesterday presented his successor to the company's annual meeting in Blackpool (George Siviloff writes).

The transport, travel and property group has chosen Mr James Watson, the present deputy chairman, to take over the chairmanship at the end of the year on the retirement of Sir Peter, who persuaded the Government to sell the then National Freight Corporation to its workers and managers for £55 million in 1982.

Mr Watson has been right-hand man to Sir Peter since 1972, joining him at British Road Services and moving to NFC with him in 1976. Mr Watson led the committee that worked on last year's successful flotation of NFC.

Sir Peter - 62 in April - told more than 3,000 of the company's 32,000 worker shareholders gathered at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, that he was

getting old and that it was the right time for him to go, now that NFC was listed on the stock market.

Also leaving is Mr Philip Mayo, architect of many of NFC's employee share-ownership breakthroughs. He is going, to advise the Polish government on employee ownership of business.

NFC has changed its mind on appointing a worker director to the board after a poll of workers, and a proposal will be put to next year's annual meeting.

Employee directors had previously been ruled out at the annual meeting in 1985, when it was decided that there was a danger of the "wrong sort of chap" getting the job. NFC already has one director appointed to look after the interests of small shareholders, and this director is coincidentally an employee.

NFC also reported first-quarter results yesterday and revealed that profit before tax in the three months to the end of December rose 17 per cent to £21.6

million on sales up 13 per cent to £371.4 million.

Losses in the travel division rose from £1.5 million to £2.1 million. Sir Peter said that it was "doing well to increase market share in a market on average 50 per cent down", but gave a warning that it may take some time to return to profit.

Profits in the core transport business fell from £9.7 million to £8.4 million, and removals fell from £5.6 million to £4.8 million. The property division rose from £4 million to £7.3 million.

Despite what directors say is disappointing growth in the first quarter, they are holding to their previous forecast of a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the full year to £105 million.

NFC said it would seek to earn most of its profits overseas by the end of the decade, against 23 per cent now, with expansion to come in the US and Europe. As few shares as possible would be issued to finance developments.

## Pearson silent on Alton Towers talk

By Matthew Bond

Pearson, the publishing group, refused to be drawn yesterday on speculation that it may be about to buy the Alton Towers theme park from Mr John Broome's Alton Group.

Mr Mark Burrell, a Pearson director, said: "I believe this falls under the heading of market rumour. Our policy is not to comment on market rumour."

Pearson's leisure interests already include Chessington World of Adventure and Madame Tussaud's. It has recently renewed a planning application for a £50 million theme park at Woburn Park, Bedfordshire.

A number of quoted groups have, over the past few weeks, sent representatives to view the huge Alton park, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Rank Organisation and Granada are thought to be among those expressing interest. Mr Broome's company has

consistently denied that Alton Towers is for sale, although it has confirmed that Mr Broome has been seeking a partner to build a £20 million residential village in the park.

Mr Broome is thought to need to sell Alton Towers to rescue his ambitious plans to convert Battersea power station into a leisure complex.

Work on the Battersea project stopped a year ago. Security Pacific, the bank that financed initial work on the site, will make no comment on the current status of a £55 million loan it advanced on the project.

It is far from certain that the sale of Alton Towers would allow the plans for Battersea to proceed. A number of property companies are looking at the site, although their interest is conditional on new planning permission with a much higher element of commercial property.

## General Cinema eyes BAT stores

By Our City Staff

General Cinema Corporation, the owner of 60 per cent of Neiman-Marcus, the United States retailer, as well as 17 per cent of Cadbury Schweppes, is believed to be considering making offers for BAT Industries' biggest American shopping interests.

Company analysts have put price tags of up to \$1 billion each on the Marshall Field's and Saks Fifth Avenue department store chains, being sold

as part of BAT's corporate restructuring.

General Cinema, which has \$1.1 billion cash in the bank and wants to expand its retail side, is thought to want Mr Philip Miller, Field's chairman, to head the entire operation.

BAT put both Field's and Saks up for sale in September. The disposals were cleared by

its shareholders a month later. Various parties, both American and Japanese, have been reported to be interested, and BAT has confirmed that it has received a number of offers for the chains.

May Department Stores has already expressed interest in Field's, and Mr Miller is also working on a buyout plan in conjunction with JMB Realty Corporation and First Chicago Corporation, according to recent reports.

Cadbury, which reports full-year figures on Wednesday, has been on bid alert for several years because of the presence of the General Cinema stake.

Although the United States company is not thought to harbour any interest in taking over the British sweets and soft drinks manufacturer, it is believed to be keen to pass the stake on, presumably to a potential bidder.

## Rankin may complain to exchange about sale delay

By Our City Staff

Mr Alick Rankin, chairman of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, is considering complaining to the Stock Exchange about its impending delays in the sale of the 25 per cent stake in S&N held by Elders IXL, the Australian brewer.

Meanwhile, sources close to Elders indicated it was still confident of completing the pub-for-breweries swap with Grand Metropolitan, under which the Australian group would acquire GrandMet's five British breweries.

The Department of Trade and Industry has imposed a June deadline for Elders to reduce its S&N holding below 10 per cent. But Mr Rankin, who is angry at the uncertainty his company faces and Elders' attempts to shift the stake to a potential bidder, is believed to want this

deadline brought forward. Elders faces growing losses on its holding, set by S&N at about £100 million. Speculation about its impending sale has circulated since the DTI ruling, but peaked about a week ago in conjunction with reports of the GrandMet deal.

This, however, failed to materialize last week, as Elders became embroiled in a political row in Australia, where Mr John Elliott, the chairman, is suing Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, and Mr Paul Keating, the Federal Treasurer, for defamation over reports that the National Crime Authority is investigating the company's affairs. Elders also announced disappointing mid-year profits and the delay of a much-awaited corporate restructuring.

GrandMet has said it is considering

other options to the deal with Elders, which owns the Courage brewery and public houses in this country. The pubs, under the terms of the possible deal, would go to GrandMet.

A combination of Courage and the GrandMet breweries would give Elders more than 25 per cent of the market and a concentrated presence in the South-east and could trigger monopolies problems. There was speculation, therefore, that both parties had been in talks with the Office of Fair Trading aimed at establishing a structure that would be acceptable to the authorities.

This could involve GrandMet selling part of its brewing business before the acquisition of the rest by the Australians or Elders being required to sell on parts after it takes control.

### A fixed-rate mortgage

at 12.25%, or at 13.75%.

### Which would you prefer?

13.4%  
Typical APR (For 12.25%)

14.7%  
Typical APR (For 13.75%)

The question isn't as stupid as it seems. Certainly a fixed-rate mortgage is an excellent way to cut your outgoings - and ease your mind. But the mortgage that suits you best won't necessarily be the one that offers the lowest interest rate.

12.25% (13.4% APR), for example, is a very low rate indeed. But with this mortgage, the lender will ask you to take out an endowment policy.

Our 13.75% (14.7% APR) mortgage is available on an interest-only or pension basis as well, and reduces to 12.75% (13.6% APR) by year three.

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Tyrie aiming to buy hotels after backing Queens Moat bid

## Balmoral on acquisition trail

By Stephen Leather

Balmoral Group is on the lookout for hotel acquisitions after throwing its weight behind the £158 million Queens Moat Hotels bid for Norfolk Capital.

Mr Peter Tyrie's Balmoral has agreed to accept the Queens Moat bid, earning itself a profit of about £4 million if the deal goes through.

Mr John Baird, chairman of Queens Moat, has declared the offer final, and if he has less than 50.1 per cent by 1pm today he will not be allowed to extend it under the Takeover Rules.

Queens Moat, which already owns 9.9 per cent of Norfolk's equity, is offering two new Queens Moat shares for every five Norfolk shares.

Mr Baird can also count on a further 8 per cent from two former Norfolk directors, Lady Joseph and Mr Tony

Good. At Friday's closing price of 95p, the bid valued each Norfolk share at just over 38p and the whole company at about £158 million.

When Queens Moat first launched its bid, the share swap valued each Norfolk share at about 43p and the whole company at £178 million.

But Mr Robin Grant of Charterhouse Bank, which is advising Queens Moat, said: "I don't think the movement in share prices will have any effect on the institutional investors. They see it as a share swap. They will be getting broadly equal assets but with better management. They are not influenced by the market fall."

However, Mr Anthony Richmond-Watson, chairman of Norfolk Capital, said the offer was now a discount of 28 per cent to net asset value.



Tyrie: battle raised profile

"Queens Moat shares have fallen 14 per cent since the offer was announced and there seems to be no end to this decline," he said.

He said that this week Salomon Brothers would begin negotiations with investors interested in buying the St James's Clubs, and that the group had just received detailed planning consent for the prop-

erty adjoining the Caledonian Hotel in Edinburgh.

"Norfolk Capital can and will fulfil its plans for realizing £75 million in cash while continuing to increase the net asset value of the company," he said.

While Mr Tyrie and his team failed in their attempt to take control of Norfolk Capital Group, which owns 18 hotels and a chain of pubs in the United Kingdom, the battle has raised his public profile. He intends to use that to his advantage whatever happens to the Queens bid.

"We have received a great many propositions since we took the stake in Norfolk," said Mr Tyrie yesterday.

"We will now be considering them. We only drew down half of our equity to purchase the Norfolk stake so we are free to move on other assets as and when they appear," Mr Tyrie's Balmoral

Group, formed after he resigned from the Mandarin Oriental Group in Hong Kong, had paid £17 million for a near-13 per cent stake in Norfolk Capital.

He failed in his attempt to persuade shareholders to vote him on the board, but the paper bid from Mr Baird's Queens Moat now guarantees him a massive profit.

"Not bad for three months work," agreed Mr Tyrie. "We will sit on the shares as long as necessary but we do not intend to be an inactive shareholder in another hotel company."

Balmoral expects the bid by Queens Moat to be successful and that the shares will rise after the deal has gone through. Mr Tyrie's plans to take control of Norfolk and turn it into a five-star luxury hotel group were defeated at a Norfolk shareholders' meeting.

## Worry over fees as Farmers fight enters new round

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

The multi-million dollar takeover fight for Farmers, BAT Industries' American insurance group, moves to Idaho today amid disclosure that the lack of new business in the early part of last year may have meant a cut in income for the insurer's 15,000 sales agents.

Figures in the Farmers monthly news magazine, *The Achiever*, indicate that new business in the first nine months last year was barely enough to earn an agent \$50 a month in commission.

Agents have been complaining privately that Farmers is pricing its products out of the highly competitive insurance market, and they say that this threatens to cut their income.

According to the figures, 468,264 new policies were sold in the first nine months of 1989, by agents numbering, according to Farmers, between 12,000 and 15,000.

The agents say that the figures indicate that an average of between 31 and 39 new policies were sold by each of them over that nine-month period, which would amount to an average of about four new policies a month. Estimates say that this level of business would have generated about \$50 a month of commission income.

One agent, who declined to

be named, said: "Business is falling off as fast as it's being put on. In a good year, you would sell maybe 30 to 35 new policies a month."

He added: "Farmers is among the best products in the industry, but its pricing policy is losing us business."

A spokesman for Farmers said: "As far as I know, we increased the number of policies written and the total amount insured last year. We have always priced our auto products on a regional basis because costs vary from state to state."

Today, Idaho will become the third of nine American states to hear evidence on the proposed change of ownership of Farmers. Axa Midt Assurance, France's third largest insurer, has agreed to pay \$4.5 billion to buy Farmers from Sir James Goldsmith's Hoylake Investments if Hoylake succeeds in taking over BAT.

Both Axa and Hoylake, to complete the deal, need the approval of insurance regulators in all nine states in which Farmers is registered.

Evidence is still being taken at the Illinois hearing. The evidence given to the panel in California, where Farmers does most of its business, ended last Thursday. A decision is expected in about six weeks.

## ICI plans cleaning sweep



Aiming to clean up: Hilary Harrison, consumer products manager of ICI Homecare

ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturer, is diversifying into the £400 million home cleaning market (Derek Harris writes). The move brings it into competition with leaders in the sector such as Lever Brothers, Reckitt & Colman and Johnson's Wax.

ICI Homecare has been created with Mrs Hilary Harrison as consumer products manager. She is planning an initial promotional spending of £1 million in women's magazines to put over a new approach for this market. She said: "Most homecare prod-

ucts fill a particular niche and everybody has come to expect a product to do one job only." But two Homecare products have a broad application, one breaking ground as a household deodorizer which absorbs odours.

Branded Allfresh, it is a variant of sodium bicarbonate, which as a powder can deodorize carpets, dog baskets or dishwashers. Sprinkled in a cup of water it can remove stale smells in the refrigerator. The advertising campaign aims to put over this multiple use.

Mrs Harrison said: "We

believe we have a unique product to offer." But competition is expected to emerge.

ICI is also introducing Liquid Soda Crystals, a liquid version of soda crystals typically used to freshen drains. Mrs Harrison said it was a good multi-purpose cleaning agent, especially for tough jobs, which could also be used for delicate textiles. Both the deodorizer and crystals are environmentally friendly.

ICI Homecare is also launching Crystal Clean, a concentrated liquid automatic dishwashing detergent.

## ECONOMIC VIEW

### How the Bank could move to independence

Monetary policy seems unlikely to be given a starring role in the Budget. A new target will be set for the narrow definition of money supply, M0, which will probably be the same as the old one. Ritual words will be spoken about the need to bear down on inflation. And policy will go on much as before.

Given the record of the past 10 years, this is not enough. While the Government's heart has been in the right place in trying to realize its commitment to monetary control, it has not been able to construct a system able to deliver consistently low inflation. The 1980s have been a period of constant experiment, taking the Treasury from targets for broad money to narrow money, from over-funding to full funding, and from benign neglect of the exchange rate to a period when little else seemed to matter. Yet at the end of the day inflation is still at 7.7 per cent and rising.

Full membership of the European Monetary System was the solution preferred by the former Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, and this may yet occur before the next election. But with inflation still heading upwards, helped by rises in mortgage rates and the effect of the Community Charge, the conditions put in place by the Prime Minister look further than ever from being fulfilled.

An additional systemic change is required both to bridge the gap until the pound may join the exchange rate mechanism and to support the aim of exchange rate stability. The best additional discipline on domestic monetary policy would be greater independence for the Bank of England.

Despite (or because of) Mr Lawson's intriguing flirtation with the idea, the Prime Minister shows no sign of being prepared to take his hands off the interest rate levers. Yet the idea is entirely in line with Conservative policy as developed in Opposition. In *The Right Approach to the Economy*, produced by the Conservatives in 1977, the party espoused "a more independent role" for the Bank.

It was a pity the Bank did not grab the idea while it had a fresh electoral mandate. But subsequent worries in Whitehall about how the Bank might discharge a more independent role are a poor reason for resisting change. Institutions adapt to the responsibilities thrust upon them.

Whether or not the Government is prepared to consider the idea, the House of Commons and the Bank between them have the power to make some useful moves in that direction. Independence of action would require legislation, but there is no law against independence of view.

As a start the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee should cease inviting the Bank Governor to give evidence as a kind of second string to the Chancellor at the time of the autumn

statement and the Budget and instead ask him independently to give his views on monetary policy. The committee could invite him three or four times a year, perhaps when the Bank publishes its *Quarterly Bulletin*, so that he could deliver his own assessment of monetary policy and the authorities' success, or lack of it in achieving their goals.

Such sessions could develop almost as much interest in the British context as the Federal Reserve Board chairman's twice-yearly testimony to Congress does in the US. The Bank may not act independently, unlike the Fed, but it could develop an independent voice which might help significantly to concentrate ministers' minds and counteract any bias towards monetary laxity.

By moving in this direction, Parliament and the monetary authorities would be in step with developments elsewhere. Not only has greater independence been manifest in formal changes in the central bank's status as in Chile and New Zealand, it has also been evident less formally in the operations of EC central banks. From the Government's point of view - could ministers be persuaded of it - it would be a complementary institutional change to full membership of the EMS, removing some of the political burden of interest rate changes necessary to stabilize the exchange rate.

Some kind of more formal mechanism for monetary accountability looks as though it will need to be developed anyway. Two issues have emerged as central in the discussions of the EC's Monetary Committee, which is charged with preparing the ground for the Inter-Governmental Conference to discuss the further stages of economic and monetary union in Europe.

One issue is the nature and extent of fiscal co-ordination. The other is the nature and degree of independence of a European monetary authority. Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, has made plain that he thinks the Eurobank should be as much like the Bundesbank as possible. The French appear to be prepared to swallow this as the price of monetary union. But everyone agrees that however it is constituted the bank will have to be democratically accountable in some way or other.

What should this mean? It might mean that the president of the bank would testify regularly before the European Parliament, or its committees, in Strasbourg. But a more attractive solution might be for each national member of the bank's board to defend the central policy before his own national parliament. It is not too early for the House of Commons and the Bank to begin preparing for this eventuality.

Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

## Banks seek action on swap confusion

By Neil Bennett

Britain's banks are calling for the Government to clear up the continuing confusion in the local authority interest rate swap market after last week's Court of Appeal ruling on Hammersmith and Fulham Council.

The verdict allowed local authorities to use swaps and swap options to hedge their debts, but said that speculation on the market was ultra vires (beyond their powers).

The banks are refusing to take part in any new swap

business until the distinction has been cleared up. The British Bankers Association and local authorities have met Department of the Environment officials to discuss possible legislation.

"The local authority market will not start again in the foreseeable future. It cannot while the risk of transactions being ultra vires remains. This is something the Government has got to be worried about," said Miss Irene Dornier, of the banks' steering committee on

local authority swaps. Sir Kit McMahon, the chairman of Midland Bank, also called on the Government to act. "Foreign banks are apoplectic and amazed that something has not been done," he said. "It could affect the whole state of the London market."

The banks have also pledged to continue legal action to recover an estimated £100 million from Hammersmith council, since the court refused to express an opinion on whether any of its swap

contracts were enforceable. The banks have a "hit-list" of people and organizations connected with the council that they may sue to recover their money. This list includes the council's brokers, auditors and the Audit Commission and individual councillors. Miss Dornier said the list still exists and could be used.

"If the council is trying to give the message to ratepayers that they will escape their debts, then the bank do not see it that way," she said.

## Bird flies as Howard drops in

The arrival of the three-man ex-Citicorp Springpore Vickers traded options team at Smith New Court - as revealed in the City Diary last week - seems to have displaced some of SNC's existing staff. As a direct consequence of the recruitment of Nigel Howard and his colleagues, Barry Bird, who hitherto ran the traded options team there and had been with the firm for three years, has, I hear, departed. One of his specialist traded options dealers, Tim Browne, has also gone. And so has equity salesman Richard Wood, who had similarly been at SNC for three years. "But we are still hiring," says Paul Roy, joint managing director of UK sales. About the options desk, he explained: "We have doubled our critical mass overnight - with about seven or eight people on the desk, which is quite big for a retail options team. And it is now a new, young team." The options team will be run jointly by newcomer Howard and John Leigh-Pemberton, son of the Bank of England Governor, and previously the number two to the now departed Bird.

**Gumbaro effect**  
Since Edwina Currie's war on salmonella, statisticians at the Central Statistical Office have been able to cite the "Currie factor" as one of the explanations on a long list that they offer for nasty movements in the food component of the Retail Price Index. The Cen-

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Voucher up his sleeve

Just as the Government looks set to do away with any last remaining perks associated with having a company car, so a bright young entrepreneur, who already cleans shirts and repairs shoes for busy City workers, has come up with an alternative method of giving employees a little extra something. William Holt, aged 24, and his former art dealer partner Jeremy Wayne, who launched Shirt Point on Black Monday - October 17, 1987 -

and now collect and clean more than 5,000 City shirts a week, are copying the concept of Luncheon Vouchers, but offering shirt or suit-cleaning vouchers instead. "No one has actually signed up yet, but Shearson Lehman and James Capel have both expressed an interest," says Holt. "Companies trying to recruit someone would be able to offer them, say, a year's supply of shirt cleaning vouchers as an incentive."

trial Statistical Office library of weird factors, which covers everything from last summer's drought to the more exotic global "pig cycle" has acquired a new one - Gumbaro's disease. Fleet Street's economics writers, fascinated by this factor cited as the cause



of rising poultry prices, have been told that the sickness, otherwise known as "chicken Aids," is badly affecting some commercial production units.

### Danish slip

Hambros, the merchant bank, which got a trifle hot under its collar last month when Danish insurance and financial services conglomerate Ballica revealed that it had built up a stake of more than 12 per cent, might have grounds to be further alarmed. For City PR firm Dewe Rogerson has just announced that it is now acting for Ballica. But the responsible PR man there, ex-Observers journalist David Simpson, was last week unable to confirm whether this was a prelude to further stake-building or - dare I suggest it? - a bid approach. He was "out of the country." Where? "Oh - in Copenhagen..."

## Unsaddling disclosure

The Executives Association of Great Britain, a mutual back-scratching group for businessmen and professionals, which apparently meets for monthly luncheons at the Savoy, had Dr Les Zapalowski, the economic counsellor from the Polish Embassy, as its guest speaker last week, to talk about "Poland in Europe: hopes and challenges." Speaking about the changes that have recently taken place, he quipped, "Stalin once remarked that imposing communism on the Poles was like fitting a cow with a saddle. . . Poland will continue its journey up the democratic slope with a huge weight on its back but at last without the saddle strapped upon it."

● Making the most of the Perrier benzene scare have been several of the newly-privatized water companies which produce mineral waters of their own. But the award for least disguised glee at the rival French company's misfortune goes to the British Water industry's trade journal, *Water Bulletin*. On the cover of the latest issue, next to a picture of a bottle of Perrier, is the headline "Eau Dear. H'Eau H'Eau?"

● A new record for the most precise invitation ever issued has surely been set by the London International Financial Futures Exchange - LIFFE - which has informed guests wishing to witness the opening of its new Euro-mark options contract, on March 1, to be there at 8.02am. Don't be late . . .

Carol Leonard

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## USM REVIEW

# Lord Mayor holds up Jeyes as a shining example to small firms

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Hugh Bidwell, made the headquarters of Jeyes, the household cleaning products group, one of his ports of call when he visited Thetford in Norfolk.

It was the first in a number of visits to regional towns planned by Sir Hugh during his term as Lord Mayor. He will be making contact with chairmen of smaller companies and putting the message across to them that the City of London does not cater just for large corporations.

He told an audience of local dignitaries and businessmen that the City's facilities were there to be used by large and smaller companies and he held up Jeyes as an example of what could be achieved with the right funding and financial advice. Mr Jimmy Moir, managing director of Jeyes, has built a strong following among institutions during his many visits to the City.

Jeyes was the subject of a £3 million management buyout from Cadbury Schweppes in 1986. It went public in 1988 with a placing of shares at 140p each, valuing the entire company at £15 million. On Friday, the shares closed at 285p, giving the company a price tag of £40.1 million.

Before Christmas, Jeyes raised £7.1 million by way of a rights issue on the basis of three-for-two at 230p a share to use for acquisitions. In January, it spent £1.3 million on Kleenoff, a private household products group selling mostly



Sir Hugh Bidwell, visiting the regions through grocery and hardware shops. Jeyes, which boasts brand names including Jeyes Fluid, Parazone and Wet Ones, last year saw pre-tax profits grow from £1.2 million to £1.58 million and is forecasting £2.1 million this year.

Jeyes already accounts for 48 per cent of the disinfectants market but its real growth has started to come from the impregnated wipes market, which is growing at 20 per cent a year.

Michael Clark

## SWP fights low rating

SWP Group, which designs and manufactures timber components for the building industry, has seen its price-earnings ratio reduced to a fraction of its former glory in the past 12 months because of the property slump.

Now standing at about 36p, the shares are on a p/e ratio of just six times, against a rating as much as 36 times earnings at one stage. Mr Bob Sticks, chairman, is far from happy about this. He points out that profits are still rising, even though the economic background is not ideal.

Indeed SWP, which was floated on the USM in October 1988, has just unveiled interim figures for the six months to the end of December, showing pre-tax profits up from £534,000 last time to £561,000, even though turnover fell from £3.2 million to £2.9 million. Earnings per share rose from 1.35p to 1.59p. Analysts are now looking for profits of about £1.3 million from the full year, compared with £1.18 million in the year to end-June 1989.

SWP has also just changed its broker from Jacobson Townsley to Beeson Gregory and Mr Sticks hopes this might help raise its profile.

"People in the City seem to think that we actually build things but we do not. We design for and supply a wide spectrum of the building industry and we have just turned in record interims," he said.

"The private housing market has come down and that has affected us. But we have more than made up for that with other sectors of the same industry which have not been so badly affected. We have been picking up work with local authorities and housing associations carrying out renovation work. And the commercial property work is still there."

"Our order books for all our businesses are very, very substantial and, depending how these are translated into production, our second half should be slightly stronger than our first half."

Carol Leonard

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0

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Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0

## THIRD MARKET

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	P/E
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0
Admiral	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100	10.0

## GOLD

**BULLION:** Per ounce  
Open: \$414.75-415.25 Close: \$415.75-416.25  
High: \$416.00-416.50 Low: \$414.50-415.00

**COINS:** Per coin (Ex VAT)  
Britannia: \$428.00-433.00 (\$250.00-255.00)  
Kruggerand: \$415.00-418.00 (\$243.00-246.00)  
Mapleleaf: \$428.00-433.00 (\$250.00-253.00)  
American Eagle: \$428.00-433.00 (\$250.00-253.00)  
New Sovereign: \$38.00-39.00 (\$25.00-26.00)  
Old Sovereign: \$38.00-39.00 (\$25.00-26.00)  
Pound: \$52.00-53.00 (\$30.00-31.00)  
Pound: \$135.50 (\$79.40)  
Silver: \$5.25-5.28 (\$3.00-3.05)

## Court of Appeal

## Reasons cannot give ground of appeal against decision

**Young v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others**  
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice McCowan

[Judgment February 20]

A landowner in whose favour a planning inspector had quashed an enforcement notice was not entitled to have the matter remitted for rehearing on the ground that the inspector had made a finding not necessary for the decision but which might cause the landowner future prejudice.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr Colin Williams Young from the decision of Judge Mander, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, of an appeal by Mr Young, under section 246 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, from a decision by the inspector, Mr A. K. Bragg, in respect of an enforcement notice issued by North Warwickshire Borough Council concerning land at Common Lane, Leek, Staffordshire.

The enforcement notice asserted that there had been a material change of use without the grant of planning permission.

Mr Young's appeal to the inspector relied, *inter alia*, on ground (b) in section 88(2) of the 1971 Act, as substituted by the Local Government and Planning (Amendment) Act 1981, whereby an appeal lay on the ground "that the matter alleged in the notice do not constitute a breach of planning control".

In his decision letter the inspector stated that in 1981 the Secretary of State for the Environment had, on an appeal against an earlier enforcement notice relating to the use of the land, granted planning permission subject to certain conditions.

After further consideration of the facts he said: "There has been a breach of planning control and accordingly (Mr Young's) ground (b) appeal must fail."

He went on to hold that the breach of control alleged in the notice was incorrect as it referred to a change of use without planning permission, rather than failure to comply with a condition, and that since that defect went to the root of the matter and could not be corrected under section 88A of the 1971 Act, inserted by the 1981 Act, the notice would be quashed.

Mr Barry Payton and Miss Julia Postill for Mr Young; Mr Roger Ter Haar for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the inspector had set out the history of the land and the arguments of the parties in relation to what had been done pursuant to the planning permission and had expressed his view on the facts.

The complaint was that it was unnecessary for him to say that Mr Young failed under ground (b) in coming to the conclusion, for the reason given by him, to

quash the decision, and that what he had said might give rise to injustice to Mr Young in the future.

The question whether or not ground (b) was made out was a matter of fact for the inspector, at least in the present case.

The inspector was entitled to make findings on matters argued before him, as part of the explanation of his decision, whether or not they were essential to his decision.

It was a part of open justice that a judgment or decision letter should explain the process whereby the decision had been reached. A tribunal should obviously take care not to make findings on matters irrelevant to its decision which might have serious consequences for a party which were not reflected in the decision, but there were a variety of reasons why findings could be made on matters not essential to the decision.

For example, a judge at first instance might make findings, which were not necessary, on his view of the law, in order to avoid there having to be a retrial in the event of a different view of the law being come to on an appeal.

Mr Young feared that he was saddled with findings which might give rise to an issue estoppel in any future proceedings.

But if what was said by Lord Justice Woolf in *Secretary of State for the Environment (1990) 2 WLR 1, 16* was a comprehensive statement of the relevant law in a planning context, it was necessary, in order to found a plea of issue estoppel, that the finding in question was an essential foundation for the decision.

His Lordship would regard the inspector's findings as merely ancillary and not essential.

Mr Ter Haar submitted that the appeal was misconceived as the inspector's decision was in Mr Young's favour, and that there was a general rule for civil proceedings stated in *Lake v Lake* (1955) P 336, 346-347 where Lord Justice Hodson said that if by the formal order of the court a defendant had succeeded but was dissatisfied

by reason of matters that had been decided against him, "nevertheless, it does not follow that because the judge, in arriving at his conclusion, has determined those matters in that way, there is an appealable issue. There was no slip in the order, and there is no appeal against the reasons given by the judge before making the order."

It was probable that the reason for the difference in wording between sections 245 and 246 of the 1971 Act, to which Mr Payton had drawn attention, was that section 245 had a wider range.

The appeal should be dismissed on the grounds (i) that the inspector was entitled to say what he did in his decision letter and (ii) that in the circumstances of the case there could be no appeal by Mr Young from a decision in his favour.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN, concurring with Lord Justice Woolf, was appealing not against the inspector's decision but against his reasons, and the Act gave no power to appeal against reasons.

Even if the sentence complained of was part of the decision, Mr Young could point to no error of law in it.

By reason of matters that had been decided against him, "nevertheless, it does not follow that because the judge, in arriving at his conclusion, has determined those matters in that way, there is an appealable issue. There was no slip in the order, and there is no appeal against the reasons given by the judge before making the order."

It was fundamental in each case to look at the order. In the present case, it was that the enforcement notice had been quashed.

It was probable that the reason for the difference in wording between sections 245 and 246 of the 1971 Act, to which Mr Payton had drawn attention, was that section 245 had a wider range.

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Even if the sentence complained of was part of the decision, Mr Young could point to no error of law in it.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF, concurring in the result, said that his concern was that the decision might be interpreted more widely than his Lordship would intend.

It was important that the court's decision on the facts where there had been no error of law should not be taken as unduly restricting the right of appeal in section 246.

There seemed much force in the argument that there could be more than one ground of decision and so more than one "decision" for section 246 purposes.

His Lordship derived no assistance from *Lake* and the effect of *Therapoulos* would have to be worked out in years to come.

Solicitors: Clinton Davis, Cusack & Kelly, Clapton; Treasury Solicitor.

Recorder Pearce and a jury of obtaining property by deception, on which he was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

LORD JUSTICE STOCKER said that although paraphrase was permitted, an accurate quotation of the relevant sentences from *Ghosh* would remove the possibility of any confusion arising.

The direction on dishonesty given in this case was inaccurate and potentially misleading, and amounted to a misdirection. For that and other reasons this conviction would be quashed.

## Law Report February 26 1990

## Intention vital to legality of interest rate swaps

**Hazell v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council and Others**

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Bingham

[Judgment February 22]

Interest rate swap transactions entered into by a local authority for the purpose of mitigating or averting potential loss to ratepayers or community charge payers were lawful and for a proper purpose, but such transactions entered into for the purpose of trading were *ultra vires*.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing in part an appeal from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (The Times November 7, 1989; [1990] 2 WLR 17).

Section 19 of the Local Government Finance Act 1982 provides: "(1) Where it appears to the auditor carrying out the audit of any accounts under this Part of this Act that any item of account is contrary to law he may apply to the court for a declaration that the item is contrary to law except where it is sanctioned by the secretary of state."

Mr Gordon Pollock, QC, Mr W. Rhodri Davies and Mr Alan Griffiths for the Midland Bank plc, Security Pacific National Bank, Chemical Bank and Mitsubishi Bank, international Ltd; Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC and Miss Catherine Oulton-Gould for Barclays Bank plc; Mr John Howell for Mr Anthony John Hazell, the Council; Mr Anthony John Howell, QC and Miss Catherine Newman for Hammersmith and Fulham Council.

THE PRESIDENT, giving the judgment of the court, said that on the application of the auditor, the Divisional Court had made a declaration that items of account in the capital market fund account of Hammersmith Council for the financial years beginning April 1, 1987 and April 1, 1988 were contrary to law and had ordered the accounts for those years to be rectified. That order had been challenged by the respondent banks.







## REPORTING THIS WEEK

## Vickers 'faced with a stationary Rolls'

## TODAY

Vickers, the engineering, defence and luxury cars group, chaired by Sir David Plé, is expected to report final pre-tax profits of £80.3 million, compared with £69.8 million, according to -Nomura Research.

Rolls-Royce Motors, which provides nearly a third of the group's turnover, is thought to have had a flat year after it pointed out the impact of higher development costs on profitability at the interim stage, with full-year operating profits expected to remain static at about £23 million.

The group is awaiting confirmation of the Challenger II tank contract, which is expected to be awarded by the Government, although some analysts are doubtful as to whether expectations will be met.

It will be interesting to hear the group's opinion on how its defence interests, which contribute about £15 million to annual operating profits, may be affected by changes in world events.

Worsening conditions in the second half will squeeze the margins in the volume franchises at Appleby, the motor dealer. Analysts expect taxable profits to climb from £9.06 million to £11.5 million for the year.

Results for 1989 are expected to be level at Williams Holdings, the industrial holding group whose brands include Smallbone kitchens and Polycell products, as the impact of higher interest rates affects the paint and DIY businesses as well as increased interest charges from capital and acquisition expenditure.

Market forecasts for full-year pre-tax profits range from £140 million to £152 million, against £116 million last time. Interim: International Colour Management.

Interim: Akzo, Appleby Group, Caldwell Investments, Cheltenham Group, Conroy Petroleum & Natural Resources, Cooper (Alan), OCE (UK), Vickers, Williams Holdings.

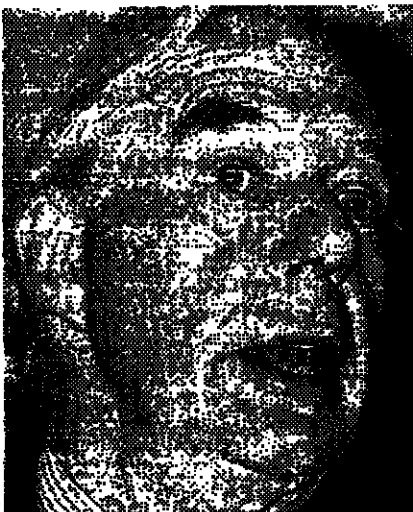
## TOMORROW

A solid if somewhat dull performance is expected from STC, the communications and information systems group, where Mr Arthur Walsh is in the chair.

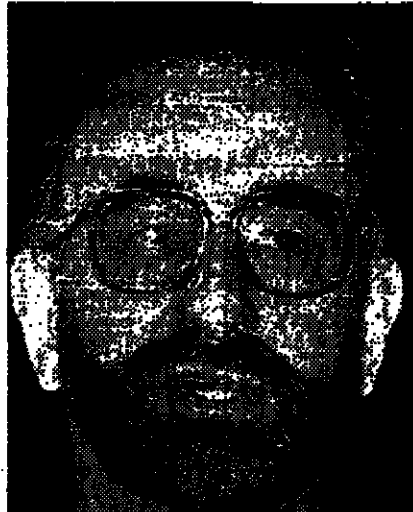
Profits at ICL, Britain's biggest computer manufacturer, which provides more than half of STC's profits, are expected to improve by 6 per cent to about £137 million.

County NatWest Wood-Mac, the broker, is looking for a 13 per cent increase in final pre-tax profits to £260 million, with profits for this year remaining flat.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food group, is likely to show a



Sir Campbell Adamson of Abbey



Cadbury's Sir Graham Day



Sir John Quinton of Barclays

15 per cent advance in fourth-quarter profits, reflecting volume growth approaching 4 per cent, the consolidation of acquisitions and some improvement in margins.

The full-year result is expected to be boosted by currency gains of about £135 million. Analysts are looking for final pre-tax profits of £1.74 billion, compared with £1.45 billion last time, with forecasts generally ranging from £1.7 billion to £1.75 billion.

Interim: Alpha Estates, Ewart, Isotron, McAlpine (Alfred), Murray Income Trust, SEEL, Flesher Bette, Gersons, Cripps, Capital & Counties, Continental &

Industrial Trust, Grams Plentou Investment Trust, Sedwick Group, SKF (AB), STC, Unilever NV, Unilever PLC, Updown Investment Company.

## WEDNESDAY

Sir Campbell Adamson, the chairman of Abbey National, and Mr Peter Birch, the chief executive, will report the first full-year figures since the company's flotation.

Mr John Wrigglesworth at UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £490 million, compared with £414 million, with most of the increase due to the interest earned on flotation proceeds. This is at the top end of

forecasts, which range from £465 million to £490 million.

However, a healthy improvement in the core business is thought to have been masked by a number of one-off factors, including about £17 million of pension costs and gifts losses of about £16 million.

All the composite insurers reporting final results will be affected by had losses in the second half as a result of Hurricane Hugo, the Californian and Australian earthquakes, British subsidence claims (after the hot summer) and the higher frequency, as well as heavier individual

Cadbury Schweppes, the soft drinks and confectionery group headed by Sir Graham Day, which has brands ranging from Milk Tray to Schweppes Tonic Water, is expected to report total pre-tax profits of £249 million, against £215 million, according to Smith New Court, the broker.

A combination of the higher oil price, improved production rates and the acquisition of Thomson North Sea (which was acquired in March 1989) should boost Lasso, the independent oil group which has a diverse drilling programme.

It is expected to report a net income of £60 million for the full year, compared with £27.6 million last time, according to Goldman Sachs.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, sees final pre-tax profits falling from £201 million to £143 million at Commercial Union, with Hurricane Hugo accounting for losses of £20 million. Profit forecasts range from £130 million to £145 million.

General Accident, which is based in Scotland, is likely to see its full-year profits reduced from £290 million to £168 million, with forecasts varying from £160 million to £180 million. General Accident had a greater exposure to Hurricane Hugo, losing £63 million as a result.

what will happen to domestic provisions after some of the sharp increases last week. Less-developed countries' debt provision is about 50 per cent and some analysts expect this to rise to 70 per cent. The bank is believed to have been selling large parts of its Third World debt on the secondary market.

UBS Phillips & Drew is looking for pre-tax profits of £815 million, compared with £1.39 billion, although forecasts range from £622 million to £924 million.

Final pre-tax profits at Royal Insurance are expected to slump from £223 million to £129 million, according to BZW, with estimates ranging from £115 million to £145 million. Hurricane Hugo will cost about £40 million and British subsidence costs are estimated at about £40 million while the estate agencies are expected to have lost about £25 million.

Interim: Admiral Computing Group, Macro 4, Polyplex, Final: AAF Investment Corporation, ASW Holdings, Barclays Bank, Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, Freeman & Co, Murray International Trust, Phillips, Lamp, Royal Insurance, Takara.

## FRIDAY

Interim: Consolidated Plantations, Linat Group, Final: Hampden Homecare.

Philip Pangalos

## Dollar strength puts Japanese in a dilemma

From Maxwell Newton, New York

The strength of the dollar is emerging as a key barrier for the Japanese policy-makers.

The yen has failed to improve against the dollar and has suffered significant losses against the mark, despite an increase of more than a third in short-term Japanese interest rates since the summer of 1989.

A key element in Japanese policy planning last year was the belief that the dollar would weaken and that a stronger yen would obviate a need for tough domestic policy measures by Tokyo.

This easy option has now been closed by the continuing weakness of the yen. Persistent and expensive sales of dollars by the Bank of Japan in the past few days have also failed to support the Japanese currency, producing a policy crisis within Japan.

The Bank of Japan does not want to raise the official discount rate because the Japanese stock market is in trouble. But the currency markets expect a rise and will punish the yen until it is forthcoming.

While this crisis is evolving, the dollar is strong. It is through yen sales against dollars that the maximum pressure is being exerted on Japan.

Americans suffer from quite a "cultural cringe" these days. They are constantly told they are the biggest debtor nation in the world; their industry is inefficient; they cannot beat the Japanese at anything (maybe not even at baseball) and their bond market is being depressed by events overseas.

It is a sad state of affairs — or so we are told. Yet America's foreign exchange reserves in the year to December 1989 rose by \$27 billion to \$63.6 billion — or 73 per cent.

What is more, at present prices, America's stock of 261.93 million ounces of gold is worth about \$105 billion. America's "ready cash" thus totals about \$168 billion, which is not humbling.

Since the end of 1987, the United States has accounted for all the increment in G7 foreign exchange reserves.

The sharp rise of America's foreign exchange reserves last year is clearly evidence that world cash is being sucked into America.

This is a further indication that American monetary policy is so restrictive that the US is gaining a growing share of

the cash base of the world system.

Between end-1987 and end-1989, non-dollar G7 forex reserves were static, at \$272 billion.

"Defending the dollar" is leading to a worldwide cash crunch. As far as the balance of payments position is concerned, the US is — in truth — in good shape and does not need to follow a policy of severe monetary restraint for balance of payments purposes. The 73 per cent increase in US forex reserves in the two years to December 1989 tells us that America's balance of payments problem is by no means dire.

Of course, it suits the Federal Reserve to act "as if" America faces a frightful "dollar crisis." This gives the central bank more leverage to maintain a strict policy.

But this can be overdone. Meanwhile, US reserves of gold and foreign exchange continue to stack up.

An issue rarely mentioned is that the US holds a disproportionate amount of its total gold and foreign exchange reserves as gold.

The value of gold (at \$400 an ounce) to the total value of US forex and gold reserves at the end of 1989 was 61 per cent. In West Germany the ratio was 39 per cent and in Japan 10 per cent.

Counting gold at \$400 an ounce, the US at the end of 1989 had sufficient cash reserves to finance four months' imports; the comparable figure for Germany was four months and for Japan five months.

The United States never admits it has those gold reserves. US gold is valued by the Federal Reserve at \$42.22 an ounce.

But that is no reason for rational thought to value the US stock of 261.93 million ounces at the price pertaining in 1974.

In any case, the rapid increase in America's reserves of foreign exchange tells us that the underpinnings of confidence in the dollar are far stronger than the worldwide condemnation of the US "twin deficits" would suggest.

American dollar bears, like Mr John Paulson, chief economist at Morgan Stanley, and Harvard's Mr Martin Feldstein have been grievously and continuously wrong on the dollar.

This is a lesson the Japanese authorities are painfully learning.

## Oil groups to prospect in Uganda

Kampala (Reuters) — Uganda is to sign an important oil exploration agreement with Western oil companies led by Petrofina of Belgium, Mr Henry Kajura, the Minister of Water and Mineral Resources, said at the weekend.

A consortium including Exxon Corp, Royal Dutch/Shell Group and Total would spend between \$850 million and \$1 billion searching for oil in the Lake Albert region of Uganda, and would acquire the right to exploit any deposits discovered, he said.

An agreement is to be signed in London next month.

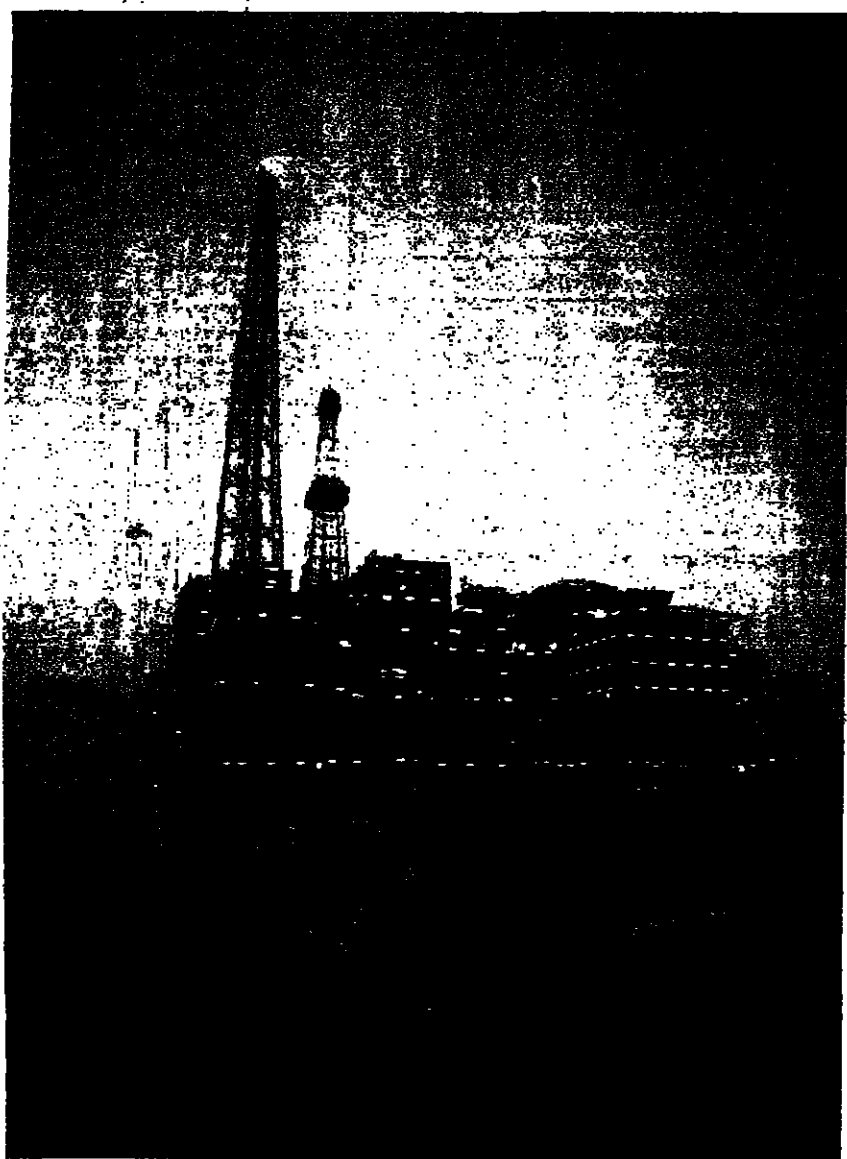
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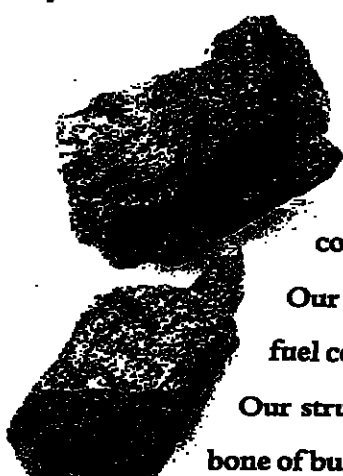
And scientists all over Europe were arguing over who had actually invented the process we now call galvanizing (after an Italian — Galvani — who had discovered the apparent life-giving effect of combining two metals during an experiment with dead frogs in 1786).

While the scientists squabbled, British manufacturers quietly beat the world in developing it commercially.

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and seminars. Prof age  
25-35. Exo. benefits &  
conditions.  
Tel Debbie Timmins  
01-281 0281 or fax your  
CV 01-621 0995  
MONUMENT PERSONNEL

**HARLEY STREET**  
Physician requires a  
secretary to organise his  
busy practice. Salary  
according to age and  
experience.  
Telephone  
01-935 7362.

**MEDICAL SECRETARY/PA**  
Experienced person for busy  
Harley Street Consultants.  
Must have good WP/typing  
ability and experience of  
people processes. Top  
salary and conditions.  
Telephone  
01-722 4419.

**COLLEGE SECRETARY**  
American College  
Requires experienced  
secretary to join a small  
administrative team.  
Wordprocessing and  
shorthand skills  
Salary £11,000 neg.  
Please reply by writing  
enclosing CV and  
your current salary to:  
The Director  
Hart College  
London College  
35 Harrington Gardens  
London SW7 4JH

**Covent Garden WC2**  
Consultant Engineer.  
Fast, accurate typing.  
WP experience helpful.  
To £10,500 p.a.  
Call Anna on  
01-739 5307.  
No agencies

**WEST END ART GALLERY**  
RECEPTIONIST/GALLERY  
ASSISTANT  
some experience and  
shorthand/typing (90/45)  
essential, some French  
German useful, non smoker.  
Salary £5,500.  
Replies to BOX M47

**SECRETARIAL Job Fair**  
THURSDAY MARCH 1st  
WALDORE HOTEL  
ALDWICH  
NOON TIL 6PM  
Meet many leading  
firms looking for  
secretaries, typists,  
and WP operators.  
Salaries: £10-14,000;  
college leavers wel-  
come; bring CVs.  
Any questions, ring  
Jo or Charlotte on  
01-408 0424  
See you there!

**PRACTICE MANAGER**  
Help to meet the  
challenge of 'Charles' new  
Contract. Two GPs +  
staff in spacious premises  
in SW7 keen to delegate  
leadership. Private and  
NHS. Aspects Diploma or  
previous practice  
experience essential & will  
determine salary.  
Thursday pm and Wends  
free. Start approx before 31st  
March. Phone Anne  
between 9am & 5pm on  
373 6557

**ADMIN PA**  
NO S/H  
£14,500 + BONUS + BENS  
The young insurance Co  
needs a highly outgoing PA  
aged 21+ for a full Senior  
Manager. 90% admin, lots of  
client contact and  
responsibility. The Co offers  
excellent training and lots of  
experience.  
Call Tania on 240 1282.  
Kingsland Pers Cons.

**BUSY KNIGHTSBRIDGE ESTATE AGENCY**  
Seeks intelligent, versatile,  
receptionist/secretary/cas-  
ual driver to start work soonest.  
Terms by arrangement.  
01 584 3285.

**RECEPTIONIST/GALLERY ASSISTANT**  
some experience and  
shorthand/typing (90/45)  
essential, some French  
German useful, non smoker.  
Salary £5,500.  
Replies to BOX M47

**International law firm in Paris seeks**  
English mother tongue secretary  
with excellent shorthand in English and working  
knowledge of French. Apply with CV to  
Mrs Audrey Féret, Clergy, Gottlieb, Sten &  
Hamilton, 47 Avenue de Friedland, 75008 Paris.

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## EDUCATION

# Will Labour be the real winner?

How much influence does Labour have on the National Union of Students? That, Sam Kiley says, is very much the issue for the two main contenders

The 1980s were a confrontational decade for student unions. A campaign orchestrated by the National Union of Students against Sir Keith (now Lord) Joseph's plans to means-test tuition fees forced what was probably the first Thatcher U-turn in 1984. In 1986, the NUS joined forces with the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals and the Labour Party against what they saw as threats to academic freedom in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

In November 1988, fringe elements fought with police at the "Bank of Westminster Bridge" as 20,000 marched against the Government's plans to introduce student loans. The anti-loans campaign came to a head at the end of last year when individual college unions and students themselves threatened to boycott all banks taking part in the scheme.

Though the banks say they pulled out of negotiations with the Government in December 1989 because they were not offered enough cash to administer the system, the Education Secretary, John MacGregor, said they had "run away at the first whiff of a grapple" when the students mobilized.

Now the NUS is holding elections for president and the two

front-runners argue that, just as paint-throwing and violence at Grosvenor Square in the 1960s gave way to single-issue campaigning 20 years later, student unions will have to take an increasingly technocratic role in the future.

By the time that either Richard "Cosmo" Hawkes or Stephen Twigg take over the presidential reins — the other six candidates have an infinitesimal chance of election — the Education (Student Loans) Bill will have been defeated or enshrined in statute. It will then fall to the president of the NUS to keep the union together in the absence of a government policy to campaign against.

The NUS does not have individual members (a fact which does not stop it claiming to represent the views of a million students) but is the unifying body for a federation of individual unions in 800 colleges throughout Britain. Presidents and officers are elected at the national conference in April by delegates themselves elected by students at each college, although there is nothing to force delegates to stick to their own manifestos.

Which way the delegates vote will depend largely on the force of personality of the independent Cosmo Hawkes who, by his own admission, is a Butlin's Redcoat at



Stephen Twigg (left), backed by the Labour Party machine, and "Cosmo" Hawkes, who describes himself as a Butlin's Redcoat at heart



heart, and Twigg, a soft-spoken member of the National Organization of Labour Students (NOLS), who has the backing of the party machine and finance.

The outgoing president, Maevie Sherlock (also NOLS), had a fairly easy time of it in her first election she fought against a hard-left candidate from the Socialist Students in NOLS (SSIN) and last year against Clive Searle of the Socialist Workers Students Society, neither of whom was likely to upset the incumbent.

This year, the race will genuinely be two-horse, although their colours are sometimes difficult to tell apart. Both candidates say they are socialists. Both believe grants should be given to those

wanting to study beyond their sixteenth birthday. They also say grants should be raised to 1979 levels (about £2,600 compared with the £2,200 students actually get).

Twigg and Hawkes also believe that the NUS should maintain its "no platform" policy of denying a voice to "declared racists and fascists" (they include members of the British National Party, the League of St George, the National Front) although ministers want to ensure that free speech is upheld on campuses and may this year take action against unions or colleges that fail to allow this.

The difference between them is the Labour Party. Hawkes, the secretary of the

union and who is paying for his election campaign out of his own pocket, says: "A president who is a member of the Labour Party is entirely controlled from Whitehall Road (the south London headquarters of the party). We have been mandated by our conference to run a campaign of non-payment of the poll tax but because the Labour Party disagrees with this tactic, the Labour executives on the NUS make sure that student union policy goes on the back-burner."

Twigg, this year the vice-president responsible for education, believes that the union has failed to come up with a coherent education policy and looks forward to less reactive confrontation over

issues and more positive contributions to the debate.

"So far, the NUS has been geared towards mass activities," he says. "We need to look towards more subtle ways of working."

He is adamant that he would put the needs and wishes of students before those of the Labour Party — he does not have political ambitions but would like to be a barrister.

Twigg vows to change the "culture of intolerance and confrontation" that surrounds student politics and to seek a less partisan identity for the union and those who shape its future. But he promises a "very strong reaction" from students if universities, polytechnics or other colleges try to

charge students for all or part of their tuition. "There would be a very big reaction," Twigg warns, a statement not to be taken lightly, given the strength of feeling against loans.

Campaigning proper for the elections, which take place at the union conference in Blackpool on April 3, opened at the Democrat student conference in Cambridge yesterday, but while Twigg has the advantage of a national network of Labour clubs to canvass on his behalf, Hawkes has to rely on the cult of personality he is building for himself.

Over the past year, Hawkes, who earned the nickname Cosmo while performing for children in holiday camps in north Wales, has been hosting game shows and "blind date" sessions in unions up and down the country in an effort to raise the NUS profile on campuses. His election expenses are expected to come to £2,000.

Pundits inside NUS head quarters in Holloway Road, north London, say that the odds on Twigg winning are about 6 to 4.

"He is popular and respected as a grafter," an NUS member says. To beat Twigg, Hawkes must mobilize enough disaffection with what he claims is the Labour Party domination of the NUS. As an independent, he will also appeal to the green voters, whose only conceivable alternative is Geoff Ellingham, best known for his pro-Gorbachevian economic theories.

Hawkes may even pick up votes from the far left, who would rather throw in their lot with an independent than endorse the Kinnockite Twigg.

## Why we'll be independent of the curriculum

A reverent rejection of the supposedly relevant new subjects

Britain's independent schools are not subject to the National Curriculum proposals of the Education Reform Act, but they would want to go as far as they could in adopting them. The Labour Party has said it will compel independent schools to follow the curriculum.

The curriculum was intended to be "broad, balanced and relevant". The meanings of broad and balanced are clear. But relevant? Relevant to what? It is possible to infer that the curriculum must be relevant to the vocational needs of most of those who study it, and that is on the whole commendable.

Britain does not produce enough scientists, technologists, engineers and skilled technicians, and we should applaud the requirement to study science and technology to the age of 16.

The practice of girls studying home economics instead of craft, design and technology, or human biology instead of the full range of sciences, and the corresponding practice of boys having to drop biology if they want to continue with a classical or second modern language, are deplorable.

The prime concern for secondary schools, both independent and maintained, is Key Stage 4, meaning the last

two years of compulsory schooling from 14 to 16. The curriculum proposes the study of English, mathematics and science and seven foundation subjects — history, geography, technology, a modern foreign language, art, music and physical education. There is also a statutory requirement to continue with religious education. GCSE will be the main form of assessment at 16 and every GCSE subject should take about 10 per cent of teaching time. The impossibility of

timetabling such proposals is clear. Ten subjects, each having 10 per cent of the teaching time, require four periods a week in a timetable totalling 40 periods. Is this broad, balanced and relevant?

Where are the three separate sciences? Or are we to be forbidden to study these as separate subjects and to examine them at GCSE? Is this relevant to the production of more scientists, technologists, and engineers? Where is there

room for the second modern language?

Will this discourage the British from taking their usual attitude towards other people's languages into the Europe of 1992?

The speech of John MacGregor, the Education Secretary, to the Society of Education Officers, was thus eagerly awaited. He has identified the problems, the most serious being overcrowding and fragmentation. Requiring all pupils to study

the full range of curriculum subjects will put too much pressure on teaching time.

Fragmentation refers to the concern that the curriculum will become split into undesirable small blocks of work that will not motivate pupils.

Has he provided any of the answers? He now expects all pupils to continue with the core subjects, technology, and a foreign language to 16. He says: "Most pupils will do all 10 foundation subjects."

He has, though, allowed the

ablest pupils, to drop some of the 10 before they turn 16, if they reach the old GCE O Level standard, leaving them free to take other subjects.

It sounds like fragmentation. MacGregor says schools will have the option of providing courses with less content than required for GCSE still within the statutory requirements.

He intends there to be a range of possibilities in terms of content and course design so that these courses can be available to pupils of all abilities.

Most independent schools

would like to be inside the curriculum but if these are the final proposals, we can be no more than alongside it.

Our 14-16 curriculum, containing, typically, English, mathematics, French, technology, three separate sciences, history or geography as compulsory core subjects with the opportunity to add two more from music, art, Latin, Greek, classical civilisation, German, Spanish, Russian, and increasingly nowadays Arabic, and Japanese, seems broader, more balanced, and more relevant to most of us.

David Jewell

The author is Master of Hailbury College and chairman of the Headmasters' Conference.

01-481 1066

## EDUCATIONAL

01-481 1066

## POSTS

### THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN, NORWAY

#### Immediate opening for Chair, Latin American Studies: Language or Literature (Spanish).

The School of Arts at the University of Bergen, seeks applications for the position of Department Chair at the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies.

Qualifications:  
• Doctoral degree and research work in:  
• Latin American Literature (Spanish) or in  
• Latin American Language (Spanish)  
• Proficiency in English and a Scandinavian Language preferred.

For a description of the position, write:  
Secretary  
School of Arts  
University of Bergen, P.O. Box 25  
N-5027 Bergen-Universitet, NORWAY  
This is a tenured position.  
The University of Bergen is an equal opportunity employer.  
Deadline for submission of applications: April 30, 1990

### HURTWOOD HOUSE

#### SUMMER SCHOOL POSTS

Teachers with EFL experience and qualifications required July/August (minimum four weeks). Applicants should be able to participate in afternoon and evening social/sporting activities with commitment and enthusiasm. (However, morning only teaching posts are available for suitable applicants).

Full board provided. Salaries start at £275 per week, depending on age and experience.

Application and CV to: The Principal, Hurtwood House, Halesbury St Mary, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6NU

### HEAD OF SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDIES

#### PRINCIPAL LECTURER

Required for September 1990 to take charge of an innovative School responsible for a wide range of Business Studies and Secretarial courses and with 20 full-time and more than 15 part-time teaching staff.

This particular School has a record of successful innovation and responsiveness to local needs. Applicants with energy and vision are invited to apply for this challenging position.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, to whom completed forms should be returned within 14 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

THURROCK TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
Woodview, Grays  
Essex RM16 4UR  
Telephone No: 0375 391199

### FELSTED SCHOOL

#### DUNMOW, ESSEX

#### TEACHER OF CDT

A well qualified and enthusiastic CDT teacher is required from the Autumn Term 1990. This flourishing department is well equipped and offers a range of opportunities from CAD/CAM and Electronics to traditional crafts. An interest in extra-curricular activity is essential.

Accommodation usually available. Felsted Salary Scale.

Further details are available from, and applications, together with a full curriculum vitae, and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees should be sent to: The Headmaster, Felsted School, Dunmow, Essex CM6 3LL.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

#### SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

#### LECTURER IN ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOUR

Applications are invited for the above post (graduate from 1 September 1990).

Qualifications and special interests in two or more of the following areas: selection, psychological testing, motivation and reward, personnel management and development, work organization and design, are required. Applicants should have a PhD or equivalent in psychology, organizational behaviour or a related discipline. Ability to contribute to research in these areas is essential. Research interests in organizational behaviour are an additional advantage.

This post is funded under the NARS scheme. Salary on the scale for Lecturers Grade A (£21,435-£25,572) or equivalently on Lecturers Grade B (£18,014-£21,435) according to qualifications and experience.

Informal enquiries may be made to Dr J.A. Dyer (0532 354500) or Professor J. Hayes (0532 352323).

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from and completed applications sent to: The Registrar, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT (or 0532 352323). Closing date for applications: 28 February 1990. The University of Leeds is an equal opportunity employer.

### UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

#### RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS

In the following Faculties: AGRICULTURE, ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, LAW, MEDICINE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. Visits to be determined (see prospectus for details). UK students for 1990-91. Single students must apply for Single Studentships. One year award renewable in some cases.

Particulars and application forms (available by HAT form from the Registrar's Office, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL).

### South Australian College of Advanced Education

#### STURT CAMPUS

#### AS90/96 SCHOOL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

#### Senior Lecturer I or II

#### Tenurable 1.0 time

DUTIES: To provide academic leadership in the School and to teach, where appropriate, in the Diploma in Applied Science (Developmental Disabilities), the Bachelor of Education (Special Education) and the proposed M. Ed. (Special Education).

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:  
Essential Criteria:  
• Master's degree in Special Education or closely related discipline. Preference will be given to candidates with doctoral qualifications.  
• High level of interpersonal and communication skills.  
• Demonstrated academic leadership.  
• Evidence of significant research activity in the field of Special Education and/or Developmental Disabilities.  
• Demonstrated evidence of excellence in teaching in higher education.  
• Experienced teacher in special education or in related fields.

Applicants are advised to contact Ms Denise Bradley telephone no. 010-61-6-228-174 fax no. 010-61-6-228-1807 to request a role statement and address the essential and desirable criteria contained therein.

Written applications and a curriculum vitae (original plus 5 copies) should be addressed via Air Mail to: Ms Kay Thorpe, The Resource Officer, Staffing, South Australian College of Advanced Education, Sturt Campus, Sturt Road, Bedford Park South Australia 5042 and should include the names and addresses of three persons from whom confidential references may be sought.

Applications close 5.00pm Friday 30 March 1990.

SALARIES:  
Senior Lecturer I \$48,594 — \$49,529 (Australian)  
Senior Lecturer II \$42,703 — \$45,822 (Australian)  
Superannuation is available to all staff members.

The College reserves the right to appoint by invitation, or not to make an appointment.

THE COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

### King Alfred School, Hampstead

#### Bursar

The post of Bursar and Clerk to the Council will become vacant on 31 August with the retirement of Alastair Allan, M.A., and his successor should be able to join the School by 1st July, on a salary within the Deputy Heads Scale. The School is co-educational, day, with 490 pupils aged 4-18 years.

While it is not a requirement that applicants should have professional qualifications, it is expected that they will have wide experience in financial management, business administration and personnel management.

Details are available from R.T. Ashwell, Gabbittas Truman and Thring Recruitment, 6-8 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1X 2BR. Tel: 734 0161. Fax: 01-437 1764.

GABBITTAS, TRUMAN & THRING

### STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL (R.M.C.)

#### Founded 1487

#### BURSAR

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors which will become vacant early in 1991 on the retirement of Mr. David Skipper.

Applications for this challenging position for which an attractive remuneration package is offered, should have a strong financial background and wide management experience at senior level. Ideally, since the school has an extensive development programme, candidates will have had experience of capital building projects and estate maintenance. For full details and the application form can be obtained by writing to The Clerk to the Governors, Stockport Grammar School, Lutton Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 7AF.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 20th April 1990.

### ST. ANNE'S SCHOOL

#### WINDERMERE

#### CUMBRIA LA23 1NW

#### (Member of GSA and GBGSA)

Required for September 1990:

#### HEAD OF BIOLOGY

to head a strong and successful department teaching from 11-18, G.C.S.E., A-level and Oxbridge entrance.

#### ALSO

#### TEACHER OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

able to offer Economics and Politics to Advanced level. Ability to offer History to G.C.S.E. level an added advantage.

Commitment to pastoral care and extra curricular activities essential in both posts. St. Anne's has its own Salary Scale and accommodation may be available for a single person.

Please apply, with C.V. and the names and addresses to two referees to: The Headmaster, St. Anne's School, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1NW, from whom further details can be obtained.

### LANGUAGE SCHOOL FOR ADULTS IN NORTHERN FRANCE

Invites applications for the following job posts:

#### ASSISTANT HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Qualifications: BA Hons or MA in English language or literature. (Good French speaking and writing skills essential). Job activities: Teaching, commercial and pedagogical responsibilities. Experience required.

#### TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Qualifications: BA Hons or MA in English language or literature. (French speaking skills essential).

Please apply to: Dr. Sybil Micollet-Gillespie, Group Studies, Rue Marcel Sembat - B.P. 62301 LEZ CAEN, France.

### APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

#### MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL

#### NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX

The Governors of Merchant Taylors' School invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant in August, 1991, on the retirement of Mr. David Skipper.

The Governors intend to appoint a person who has an Honours Degree from Oxford or Cambridge, or an academic qualification of comparable standing, or a person with appropriate experience from industry, commerce, or government service. They would prefer the Head to be married and to be between the ages of 35-50.

Full particulars of this appointment, together with an application form, which must be returned by 22nd March 1990, may be obtained from:

The Clerk to the Governors  
Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Threadneedle Street,  
London EC2R 8AY  
Telephone 01 588 7606

### THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

#### DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

#### LECTURESHIP

Applications are invited for the above post available from 1 October 1990. Proven research ability at the postdoctoral level essential, preferably with experience in electrophysiology of ion channels. This post is funded under the NARS Scheme.

Salary on grade A (£10,458 - £15,372) of the lecturer's scale according to qualifications and experience.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor D. W. Wray (Tel 01 794 0500 x4330).

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from and completed applications returned to:

The Registrar, The University, Leeds, LS2 9JT (Tel 0532 333969) quoting reference No. 103/15. Closing date for applications 23rd March 1990.

The University of Leeds is an equal opportunity employer.

### FALCON

#### SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

12 EFL QUALIFIED TEACHERS WITH SUBSTANTIAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

FLUENCY IN A SECOND OR THIRD LANGUAGE, E.G. OR JAPANESE

ABILITY TO PLAN & DEVELOP OBJECTIVES WITH OUR DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

ABILITY TO MOTIVATE NEW COURSES

9-12 WEEKS SUMMER AVAILABILITY

Please send a letter of application with C.V. to: The Principal, Falcon School of English, 13 Water Gardens, Gorton, Manchester, M14 5JH. Tel: (061) 420-0777, (01) 954 9444 (8 Lines) Fax: (061) 420-0772

FALCON SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

## POSTS

### CLIFTON COLLEGE

#### PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Recruiting for September 1990 a

#### LIBRARIAN

For further details please write to: The Headmaster, Clifton College, Preparatory School, The Avenue, Bristol BS8 3HE.

### UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

#### SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

#### CHAIR

Applications are invited for the above post. The post is funded under the NARS Scheme.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor D. W. Wray (Tel 01 794 0500 x4330).

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from and completed applications returned to:

The Registrar, The University, Leeds, LS2 9JT (Tel 0532 333969) quoting reference No. 103/15. Closing date for applications 23rd March 1990.

The University of Leeds is an equal opportunity employer.

#### COURSES

#### ABBAY

REVISION COURSES

For further details please write to: The Headmaster, Clifton College, Preparatory School, The Avenue, Bristol BS8 3HE.

#### ST. ANNE'S SCHOOL

WINDERMERE

CUMBRIA LA23 1NW

For further details please write to: The Headmaster, Clifton College, Preparatory School, The Avenue, Bristol BS8 3HE.

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#### ST. ANNE'S SCHOOL

WINDERMERE

CUMBRIA LA23 1NW







Continued From Previous Page

## EDUCATIONAL

01-481 1066

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Association with St. Hilda's or Balliol College  
UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIP IN IMMUNOLOGY

Applications are invited for the new post of University Lecturer in Immunology within the Faculty of Physical Sciences and the title of University Lecturer will be conferred upon the successful candidate, who will be expected to carry out the normal duties of a University Lecturer and Official Fellow.

The full stipend associated with a University Lectureship and Official Fellowship will be paid by the College in conjunction with the University's Board of Faculty of Physical Sciences and the title of University Lecturer will be conferred upon the successful candidate, who will be expected to carry out the normal duties of a University Lecturer and Official Fellow.

Applicants should have a successful record of research in experimental physics most probably in the areas of condensed matter, atomic or laser physics.

Further particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the College Secretary, The Queen's College, Oxford, OX1 4AL to whom enquiries should be sent not later than 21 April 1990. These should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and a statement of research interest and teaching experience. Candidates are asked to arrange for three references to be sent direct to the College Secretary by the above date.

The University and the College are Equal Opportunity Employers.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS  
AND  
THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE

University Lectureship in Experimental Physics and College Praelectorship and Official Fellowship in Physics

Applications are invited by the College for Praelectorship & Official Fellowship in Physics with effect from 1 October 1990 or a later date to be arranged. The appointment will be made by the College in conjunction with the University's Board of Faculty of Physical Sciences and the title of University Lecturer will be conferred upon the successful candidate, who will be expected to carry out the normal duties of a University Lecturer and Official Fellow.

The full stipend associated with a University Lectureship and Official Fellowship will be paid by the College in conjunction with the University's Board of Faculty of Physical Sciences and the title of University Lecturer will be conferred upon the successful candidate, who will be expected to carry out the normal duties of a University Lecturer and Official Fellow.

Applicants should have a successful record of research in experimental physics most probably in the areas of condensed matter, atomic or laser physics.

Further particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the College Secretary, The Queen's College, Oxford, OX1 4AL to whom enquiries should be sent not later than 21 April 1990. These should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and a statement of research interest and teaching experience. Candidates are asked to arrange for three references to be sent direct to the College Secretary by the above date.

The University and the College are Equal Opportunity Employers.

Applicants should have a successful record of research in experimental physics most probably in the areas of condensed matter, atomic or laser physics.

Further particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the College Secretary, The Queen's College, Oxford, OX1 4AL to whom enquiries should be sent not later than 21 April 1990. These should include a curriculum vitae, list of publications, and a statement of research interest and teaching experience. Candidates are asked to arrange for three references to be sent direct to the College Secretary by the above date.

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GOLDSMITHS' COLLEGE  
University of London

Applications are invited for the following newly-established Chairs at Goldsmiths' College:

## CHAIR IN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Candidates with interests in any area of the Mathematical Sciences, including Statistics and Computing, are welcome. It is anticipated that the person appointed will have a successful record in research and in attracting research funding. The post will be held from 1 January 1991 or as soon as can be arranged.

## CHAIR OF ENGLISH

Candidates with interests in nineteenth and twentieth century English and/or American literature will be considered. The post will be held from 1 January 1991 or as soon as can be arranged.

Applications (10 copies) should be submitted to the Warden, Goldsmiths' College, New Cross Road, SE14 6NW, from whom further particulars should first be obtained.

The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 7 April 1990.

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HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY  
SECRETARY  
TO THE UNIVERSITY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the post of Secretary to Heriot-Watt University in succession to Mr Duncan I Cameron upon his retirement with effect from 30 September 1990.

Applications, including the names and addresses of three referees, should be addressed to the Principal, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AS (Tel 031-449 5111 Extn 4078) and should be lodged by Friday 16 March 1990.

Further particulars of this appointment may be obtained from the Principal.

## UNIVERSITY OF READING

## LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

Applications are invited for a new Academic Appointment in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Management. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and research in the field of Agricultural Economics and Management. The post is full-time and involves a significant research component. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of the Department and to the University as a whole.

Further particulars of this appointment may be obtained from the Principal.

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE  
CHAIR OF ENGLISH LAW

Applications are invited for the above established Chair (previously held by Professor W R Cornish) at the London School of Economics and Political Science from 1 October 1990 or such later date as may be arranged. Applicants should have demonstrated excellence in teaching and research in one of the core subjects of English Law. The appointee will be expected to contribute to the development of the Department.

Further particulars of this post are available from the Staffing Office, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Applicants should submit eight copies of a full curriculum vitae together with the names of three referees by 6 April 1990.

An Equal Opportunity Employer</







## ATHLETICS

# Selectors complicate issue for leading world title prospects

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

The waiting game which Richard Nurkhar chose not to play during the Provincial Insurance English men's national cross country championship at Roundhay Park, Leeds, on Saturday was there to greet him at the finish. Nurkhar, who broke away just after halfway, had been advised that a win in the big event on the clubman's annual calendar would assure him of a place in the world championship; the British team selectors soon made it clear it had not.

Simple minds performed in the park not so long ago and, on the issue of world championship selection, there were a few at work in the aftermath of Nurkhar's win. There was nothing to be gained from keeping in the dark the athletes who have every chance of winning the title for Britain in Aix-les-Bains, France, on March 24; but, it was said, no pre-selections would be announced.

## Britain waiting on sprint champions

By David Powell

Britain have delayed until tomorrow the announcement of their sprint line-up for the European indoor championships at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, next weekend in the hope that their two champion sprinters from the Commonwealth Games, Linford Christie and Marcus Adam, will take up their places in the 100 and 200 metres. Both Christie, the Commonwealth 100 metres champion, and Adam, the 200 metres medal winner, have been named for the 60 metres and 200 metres. But Christie, who said he would not run all five events on the domestic indoor programme, is thought to have chosen the national championships, on March 9 and 10, and Britain's match against the United States and the Soviet Union, on March 10, both at Cardiff, ahead of the European event. Adam is troubled by a hamstring and is doubtful.

But a third line of argument found favour with the selectors: make everybody sweat it out. Staines, though, has been excused, it would seem. Fourteenth in the world championship last year, he has apparently been spared the ordeal. Late returning from the Commonwealth Games, staying on in the Antipodes to get married, he has, according to Hutchings, been told he is picked. "I would have thought of Eamon, myself and Gary, he is the least deserving," Hutchings said. Neither Hutchings, the world championship runner-up last year, nor Marek, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, have received any such indication, and Hutchings added: "The logical thing would have been to tell the three of us at the start of the season that we were in, so the others knew where they stood."

Nurkhar, certainly, would have benefited from that. The proximity in the calendar of the national and the world championship discourage athletes from contesting all three, and Nurkhar was undecided a fortnight ago whether to run in Leeds. His coach, Eric Tullio, the former European 5,000 metres champion, convinced him. "Bruce said that if I ran well in the national - meaning first or second - I wouldn't need to run Glasgow; the priority has always been to make sure I was in Aix-les-Bains," Nurkhar said.

Since neither Martin nor Staines have any intention of appearing in the trial, Nurkhar must now wait on Hutchings's decision. Hutchings wants the race, but a sore throat has interrupted his training. He said that because the trial causes a week's interference with training, he may need the time to catch up on lost mileage. Only if he runs it can Nurkhar safely miss it.

Nurkhar speaks two foreign languages, German and Russian, has a British mother, an Indian father, and has spent the best part of the last two years in the United States. So where did he go for his winter training? Kenya, of course. "It was a great boost to training; three weeks was probably a little too short to get the full benefit from altitude, but it helped," Nurkhar said. A graduate of Oxford and Harvard, he was in the Soviet Union on his language course at the time of Chernobyl.

At Harvard, Nurkhar studied international politics. Another Seb Coe? No, a language teacher now, he wants to go into business. He does have designs on an international track career, though. He narrowly missed out on the last Olympics and Commonwealth Games. The evidence on Saturday was that he will miss out again when the European championships come round this summer.

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## YACHTING

# Leaders a day away from Punta del Este

By Malcolm McKee

As Tracy Edwards and his all-women crew yesterday rounded Cape Horn to add yet another entry in yacht racing's record books under M for Midden (first-ever women crew to round The Horn), the Whitbread race leaders were fast closing on Punta del Este, Uruguay, and the finish of leg four. The first seven boats are expected to arrive sometime tomorrow, although just what time is another matter.

The race office computer in Portsmouth, which, principally for safety reasons, continually monitors the yachts' positions and progress was yesterday predicting an arrival in the early hours, but the computer performs its task mechanically, using its own calculation of each yacht's average speed over the entire leg so far. Using the average daily mileage since leaving Cape Horn four days ago for the same calculation, and making allowance for probable changes in weather as the yachts near the coast, makes an arrival around midday or later more likely.

What seems less in doubt is that the yacht will be first over the horizon: unless something goes badly wrong it will yet again be Peter Blake's red-hulled ketch *Spirit of Nova Scotia*, which pulled out a lead of ten miles on his compatriot, Grant Dalton, in Fisher & Paykel.

Eighty miles behind these two, the pattern is no less familiar. *Rothschilds*, of Britain, leading *Merit*, of Switzerland, by almost 30 miles. These two have had for third place on each leg since the fleet last raced into Funchal, last September.

Now, past the Falkland Islands and racing some 120 miles off the coast of Argentina, the leaders yesterday had modest easterly winds of 15 knots, giving perfect reaching conditions. *Spirit of Nova Scotia* was reported by the last boat in the fleet, *Rucanor Sport*, from Belgium, trailing the others by 1,500 miles and still approaching Cape Horn having been in the lead since the start of the race.

The best day's run was reported by the last boat in the fleet, *Rucanor Sport*, from Belgium, trailing the others by 1,500 miles and still approaching Cape Horn having been in the lead since the start of the race. *Rucanor Sport* was reported by the last boat in the fleet, *Rucanor Sport*, from Belgium, trailing the others by 1,500 miles and still approaching Cape Horn having been in the lead since the start of the race.

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## POINT-TO-POINT: SPARTAN LEMON QUALIFIES AGAIN FOR TIMES FINAL

# Quick Fling makes fitness tell

By Brian Beel

Spartan Lemon, favourite to win last year's *The Times* Championship final at Towcester, is again eligible to run this season after finishing second in one of the three qualifiers on Saturday.

The horse who beat him, Quick Fling, had the benefit of an outing a fortnight ago, trailing the field at Kingston Blount before being pulled up in a race in which Tim Jones rode the winner, Matsix.

Jones was booked to ride on Saturday at the Vale of Clwyd and connections appeared to

THE TIMES

## Point-to-point Championship

have every confidence as Quick Fling was heavily backed to point to point.

Always up with the pace, he took the lead at the fourteenth. David Jones made his challenge on Spartan Lemon two out but was soon shaken off and there was a gap of seven lengths between them at the post.

Earlier in the afternoon in the open, Matsix looked to be coming to win his second race with three to jump but the long-time leader Timber Tool, under Tim Rooney, came back at him and went on again to lead by five lengths at the line.

In winning, Rooney was completing a double having been successful on Avenue Royal in the maiden. However, the treble eluded him when Reay Royal fell at the last when he was beaten at the time by the former Jenny Pitman-trained novice, Vivace, ridden by Paul Hamer.

Another from Jenny Pitman's stable, Luke Trout, purchased by Mike Northall, was second in the first division of *The Times* qualifier at the North Hereford.

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Results: 1000m (100m): 1. R Nurkhar (England, 9:44.44), 2. P Taylor (England, 9:45.00), 3. V (England, 9:45.00), 4. G (England, 9:45.00), 5. T (England, 9:45.00), 6. S (England, 9:45.00), 7. C (England, 9:45.00), 8. D (England, 9:45.00), 9. J (England, 9:45.00), 10. K (England, 9:45.00).

Results: 1100m (110m): 1. R Nurkhar (England, 10:44.44), 2. P Taylor (England, 10:45.00), 3. V (England, 10:45.00), 4. G (England, 10:45.00), 5. T (England, 10:45.00), 6. S (England, 10:45.00), 7. C (England, 10:45.00), 8. D (England, 10:45.00), 9. J (England, 10:45.00), 10. K (England, 10:45.00).



Space Prince (Al Hamby, right) challenged at the last by the grey Ivy Royal (Mike Harris) before going on to prevail in an exciting finish to the second division of *The Times* Championship qualifier at the North Hereford point-to-point meeting at Newtown

Having won a decent maiden race at Upper Sapey last season, he was well supported in the market, as was Sheldale and it was these two that were concerned in the finish.

Alstair Ulyet took up the running at the third division of *The Times* qualifier on Space Prince.

From five out, he was closely

Kim Stephenson on Sheldale, but this one was always second best.

Richard Lee's assistant Al Hamby has raced under Rules but had his first ride in a point-to-point at the Erv Long course and took the second division of *The Times* qualifier on Space Prince.

From five out, he was closely

pursued by Mike Harris on Ivy Royal and though only a length separated them at the finish the second horse always looked to be held.

The successful owner, Roger Phillips, who won the Lady Dudley Cup four years ago with Sheldale, intends to run Space Prince next in a novice hunter chase at Leicester next Monday.

## Results from Saturday's nine meetings

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## CRICKET: HOUGHTON'S INNINGS IS ONE OF FEW BRIGHT SPOTS FOR ZIMBABWE AS THEY FALL SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS

# England A reward Dexter with near-faultless display

From Richard Streeton, Harare

Instead of the stiff examination England A expected from Zimbabwe this weekend, the touring team clinched the one-day series with comfortable wins yesterday and on Saturday. Zimbabwe failed to play to their potential by some distance in both 50-over matches. Their only consolation was that David Houghton, their captain, made 88 in the second game, the highest score in either match.

England A, using three spin bowlers on a slow pitch, won by 61 runs yesterday. They restricted their opponents to 184-8, having set them a target of 246. By the 32nd over Zimbabwe were 84-6 and the match was finished as a contest. The third one-day international at Bulawayo on March 18, has become academic and Zimbabwe, who hitherto have stayed faithful to the old guard, seem certain to make changes.

Mark Nicholas, the English captain, said afterwards he had respected Zimbabwe's record in the limited-over game, as ICC Trophy winners, their showing in world cups, and against numerous touring sides to this country. "Now we did not let them play at all. Apart from a run-out and a dropped catch, we were faultless the whole weekend."

Asked whether the presence of Ted Dexter, the England coach, and goodie brought him 3-23 and were the feature of the English game, when they took control against the front rank Zimbabwe batsmen. Over the course of the match, Houghton, though, this was an outstanding achievement by an inexperienced team who have shown great character in overcoming early setbacks as they have become accustomed to testing heat and humidity.

Houghton, usually a forceful driver and hooker, hit only seven fours and seemed resigned to take practice as his team failed around him. He was caught behind trying to book in the last over. Otherwise the Zimbabwe batting was inept with Brandes, who helped to add 16 in 15 overs for the seventh wicket giving Houghton his only support.

After England were put in on a sluggish pitch, which was still drying out, Thorpe drove fiercely to lead the final charge by 36 runs added during the closing 10 overs, despite a slow outfield. Nickell, with some graceful driving, made with a full swing of the bat, and Blakey, with a sure touch for finding the gaps, was dismissed by a direct hit. They added 82 in 21 overs for the second wicket before Thorpe reached his 50 from 34 balls.

On Saturday, the English side completed a straightforward win in the first match, which never set the pulse racing after first Zimbabwe's batting failed, and then a thunderstorm intervened between the innings. England won on faster scoring rate after their target was reduced to 118 in 44 overs. The Zimbabwe innings never recovered from the moment when Iglesien took three wickets in his fifth over.

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## INDIA may be set impossible target

From Qamar Ahmed, Auckland

New Zealand, with 416 for five and a lead of 325 runs on the second innings, were in a commanding position against India after the fourth day of the decisive third and final Test match at Eden Park.

A declaration is unlikely when play resumes today as John Wright, captain, said he would like to see the team through to the end of the match. A draw is not unlikely, considering the wicket, which still favours batsmen.

Wright said that Jones and his team had been in a commanding position against India after the fourth day of the decisive third and final Test match at Eden Park.











TENNIS: FIFTH SUCCESSIVE WIN OVER WORLD NO. 1 PUTS BECKER IN THE MENTAL ASCENDANCY

# Fatigued Lendl is humiliated

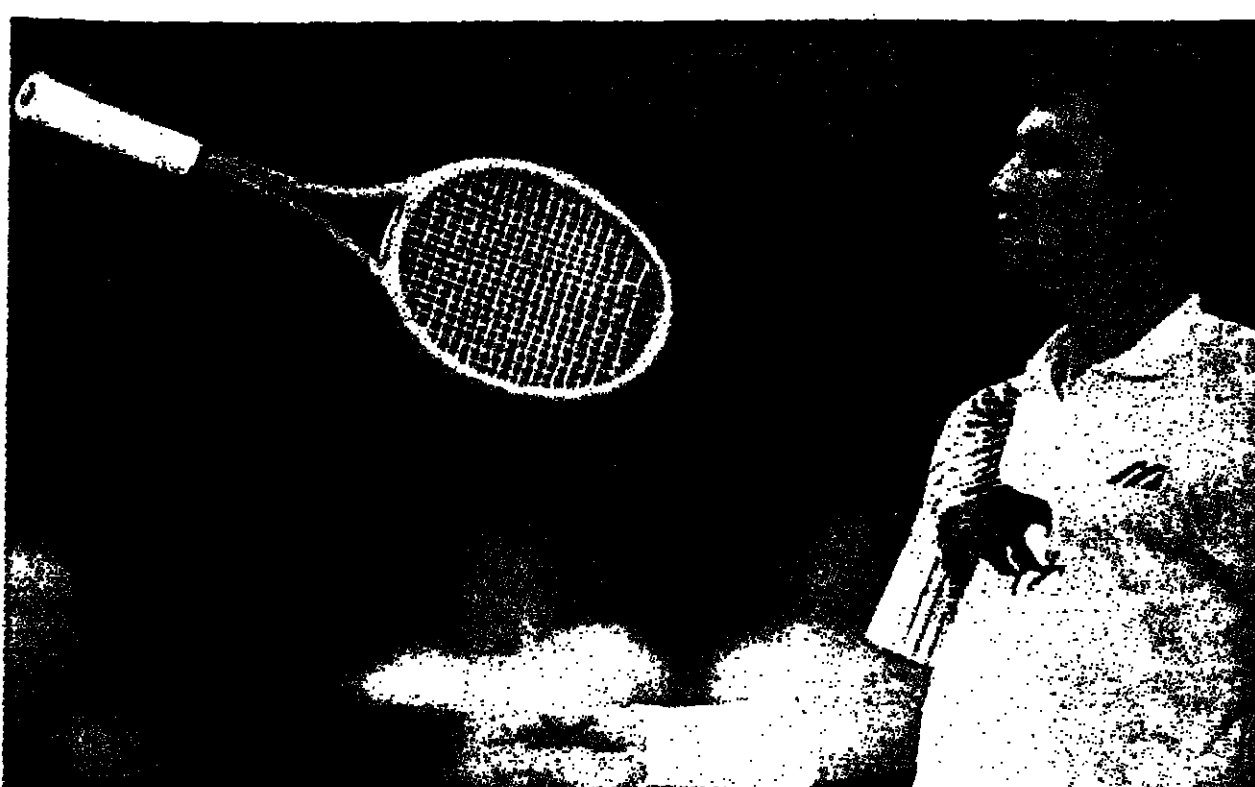
From Andrew Longmore  
Tennis Correspondent  
Stuttgart

Ivan Lendl will have mixed emotions as he wakes up this morning. Uppermost in his mind will be the sentimental journey he makes today to play an exhibition match in Prague, his first trip back to his native land since 1984, at the back of which he is giggling thought that his dreams of winning Wimbledon look better than ever after a severe defeat by Boris Becker in the final of the Stuttgart Classic yesterday.

Lendl was not just beaten, he was humiliated by Becker, who has now won their last five matches. "I think it is in both of our heads now that I have won the last few," said Becker. "Hopefully, it will stay that way."

No one was sure what was in Lendl's head, because it certainly was not his tactical brain. In the 73 minutes of the match, Lendl won just two games in each set, reducing the usually raucous home crowd to a stunned silence by his listlessness, and Becker to disbelief, with his inept impression of a serve-and-volleyer.

"Those tactics surprised me. I still don't know why he did that," Becker said. Lendl's explanation that the court was so fast, his only chance lay in getting to the net first and putting the world champion under pressure, did not quite ring true. For one thing, the court seemed slow, for another, Lendl had shown no sign of resorting to those tactics earlier in the week.



Gesture of despair: Ivan Lendl throws his racket in the air after losing 6-2, 6-2 to Boris Becker in Stuttgart

Fatigue seemed a more acceptable excuse for his worst drubbing since he lost to McEnroe in Brussels in 1984. Lendl has played four tournaments in five weeks and looked mentally exhausted. "I've had too much tennis and too much travelling, but I have given my commitment to the tour this year and will stick to my word. If I had been at home today, I wouldn't have been practised. That's how I felt," he said.

Though the occasion was never going to generate the nationalistic excitement of the Davis Cup final two months ago, the meeting of the two best players in the world should, on form, have produced more of a struggle. Though neither had been playing at their best, Lendl had won his last three tournaments and Becker had won his first title of the year in Brussels last week.

Becker meant business. He broke Lendl to love in the first game, survived to break points in his own opening service game, and from then on gave Lendl little glimpse of survival. He attacked Lendl's surprisingly nervy second serve, and when Lendl kept coming in to the net, passed him regularly. A beautiful backhand service return gave him his second break of the set.

Only briefly at the start of the second set did Lendl look as if he might relish a fight. But, on break point for a 2-0 lead with the court wide open, he was not for the first time, too tentative with the volley. After that, he won just three more points on Becker's service and lost his own for the fourth time in the match. "That is bound to happen if you don't play well against Becker," he said with a shrug.

## Practised outsiders topple champions

By David Rhys Jones

Tony Allcock, of England, and Hugh Duff, of the Scot, were the only former champions extant in the Embassy world indoor singles championship at Preston. On Saturday, Richard Corrie, the holder, was beaten by the English champion, Andy Thomson, then David Bryant was defeated by the swashbuckling Australian, Ian Schuback.

Thomson, last Tuesday a 50-1 outsider, and Schuback, who was 66-1, are now perceived as real challengers for the title. Both are keyed up for victory, and appear more dedicated, professional even, than their fellow contenders.

It is surprising that daily practice — in the manner of professional darts or snooker players — is not thought compulsory in bowls. Schuback, however, in his own words, "wakes into the Guild Hall at an early hour," and practises assiduously for around 2½ hours each day.

Thomson's opponent in the quarter-final on Wednesday will be his Collyer club colleague, Gary Smith, who won the 1988 UK singles title on the portable rink, and who will partner Thomson in next Thursday's pairs quarter-final against Steve Rees and John Price, of Swansea.

Smith beat Rees yesterday, putting the bulky Welshman under considerable pressure with consistently accurate opening deliveries, and occasionally showing his flair for converting unpromising positions into shots.

Rees rallied after losing the first two sets, and won the third, 7-4, from a bleak 0-4 scoreline. He failed to keep up his momentum, however, and dropped three on the first two ends of the fourth set, capitulating 2-7.

Much depended upon who delivered the jack. Smith struck seven ends together while he was controlling the length, but lost four in succession while Rees was in charge.

"I'm very happy with my form now," the ebullient Smith said. He seems to regard himself as the underdog, against his friend, Thomson. "He's so difficult to beat when he hits a rhythm," he said, "so I'll just have to try to get in first."

## BOWLS

## Thrilling win for Middlesex

By Sydney Friskin

Middlesex and Hampshire provided the day's thrills in the county championship yesterday, when they drew 3-3 in the South area final. Middlesex eventually won 3-2 on penalty strokes, but both teams qualify for the national rounds.

Gallen, Carr and Dixon were the scorers for Middlesex, the champions, Tubb getting all three goals for Hampshire. Both sides had secured easy victories earlier in the day in the semi-final rounds. Middlesex defeated Kent 3-0 with goals by Daved, from a penalty stroke, Carr and Bennett. Hampshire beat Surrey by the same score, with Aspin — from a Trojans — scoring two goals from short corners, and Paul Cooper adding the third.

Yorkshire's 2-1 win over Cheshire gave them the Northern title, Cheshire finishing runners-up. Moak scored both goals for Yorkshire in the third and 30th minutes, Sean Crutchley reducing the lead from a penalty stroke in the 64th minute.

The Midlands final was won by Staffordshire, who defeated Warwickshire 2-1. The scorers for Staffordshire were Kufner Takher, from a penalty stroke, and Medley from a short corner. Chris Roberts replied for Warwickshire, also from a short corner.

Devon's 4-1 win over Dorset enabled them to secure the Western title, with Somerset finishing runners-up after their 5-1 win over Hereford.

The final stages of the Eastern division will be played on April 7, after which the draw will be made for the preliminary and quarter-final rounds.

The semi-finals and final are to be played at Sheffield on May 12 and 13.

RESULTS: North: Yorkshire 2, Cheshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1.

RESULTS: South: Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0.

RESULTS: West: Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1.

## HOCKEY

## Slough outskilled by Germans

Slough were soon back on level terms when Karen Brown, who was quite outstanding in the tournament, battled through the German defence to score.

After the interval, Lesley Hobbie scored from the spot and Brown put Slough 3-1 ahead when she superbly touched in Kate Parker's pass, but the Germans retained their composure and their superior skills and finishing were to prove decisive.

Within 10 minutes, Karola Wegner reduced the deficit and further strikes by Moser and Heide Glahder ensured victory. Guytech Western failed to live up to their reputation and, despite dominating their last two games, squandered far too many chances and lost 5-2 to Groningen in the play-off for the grand medal.

Swiss slumped to a 6-1 defeat to the Spanish side, Terrest, in the play-off for fifth place with the Swiss captain, Sue Perriol, scoring their only goal.

Leicester played well yesterday at Cusinstan Park, Chelmsford, and beat Chelmsford 4-1 in a re-arranged Typhoo National League match keeping second place in Slough in the league table (Joyce Whitehead writes). Leicester now have 22 points and a match in hand to Slough's 24.

Gill Brown, who was very creative in the Leicester side, was named player of the match.

RESULTS: North: Yorkshire 2, Cheshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1.

RESULTS: South: Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0.

RESULTS: West: Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1.

RESULTS: East: Essex 3, Kent 0; Essex 3, Kent 0; Essex 3, Kent 0; Essex 3, Kent 0.

## FOR THE RECORD

VALERIA: Two of Valeria: 1. M. Hernandez (Spain), 2. M. Hernandez (Spain), 3. M. Hernandez (Spain), 4. M. Hernandez (Spain), 5. M. Hernandez (Spain), 6. M. Hernandez (Spain), 7. M. Hernandez (Spain), 8. M. Hernandez (Spain), 9. M. Hernandez (Spain), 10. M. Hernandez (Spain).

LOS ANGELES OPEN: Third round results: 1. M. Hernandez (Spain), 2. M. Hernandez (Spain), 3. M. Hernandez (Spain), 4. M. Hernandez (Spain), 5. M. Hernandez (Spain), 6. M. Hernandez (Spain), 7. M. Hernandez (Spain), 8. M. Hernandez (Spain), 9. M. Hernandez (Spain), 10. M. Hernandez (Spain).

SWIMMING: 100m butterfly: 1. M. Hernandez (Spain), 2. M. Hernandez (Spain), 3. M. Hernandez (Spain), 4. M. Hernandez (Spain), 5. M. Hernandez (Spain), 6. M. Hernandez (Spain), 7. M. Hernandez (Spain), 8. M. Hernandez (Spain), 9. M. Hernandez (Spain), 10. M. Hernandez (Spain).

100m butterfly: 1. M. Hernandez (Spain), 2. M. Hernandez (Spain), 3. M. Hernandez (Spain), 4. M. Hernandez (Spain), 5. M. Hernandez (Spain), 6. M. Hernandez (Spain), 7. M. Hernandez (Spain), 8. M. Hernandez (Spain), 9. M. Hernandez (Spain), 10. M. Hernandez (Spain).

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## SQUASH RACKETS

### Tenacious Robertson knocks out Jansher

By Colin McQuillan

Chris Robertson, the world No. 5 from Australia who has been adopted as an unofficial ambassador to the Welsh Wonders League, repaid local affection at the National Sports Centre by beating Jansher Khan, the world champion, 15-5, 15-13, 11-15, 17-16, to reach the final of the £50,000 Lockes Wonders League.

At the end of a lightning-paced, two-hour semi-final, Robertson took match point on a no-let call from the referee. The decision was then generous to a world champion renowned for extraordinary recovery abilities, but probably reflected the balance of the game.

It was Robertson's second win in a dozen meetings with Jansher, who he removed from last year's British Open in the quarter-finals, and he brought him to a final against Jansher Khan, the world No. 2. Jansher has lost to just five men in the past decade, but only survived a 75-minute semi-final against his Falklands counterpart, Mr. Jansher Khan.

Robertson's court speed and anticipation is rivaled only by the two top Pakistanis. Normally, however, he lacks the shot power to move them, provide obstinate semi-final obstructions of great value to opposing finalists but of little use to his own silver collection.

Against Jansher he passed his natural game to such effect that he was eventually extracting errors from the world champion in series of the kind that Jansher's prodigious rallying patience usually brings from his own opponent.

With rallies often lasting close to 100 strokes, reminiscent of the early Harrington-Hunt professional marathons, Robertson advanced from 7-7 to win the 30-minute opening game in just two hours, from 2-10 in the 26-minute second game and from 12-14 in the 34-minute fourth. He had considerable assistance from Jansher's mistakes, produced by his increasingly desperate search for a hole in the defence.

RESULTS: North: Yorkshire 2, Cheshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1; Staffordshire 2, Warwickshire 1.

RESULTS: South: Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0.

RESULTS: West: Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1; Somerset 4, Dorset 1.

RESULTS: East: Essex 3, Kent 0; Essex 3, Kent 0; Essex 3, Kent 0; Essex 3, Kent 0.

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RESULTS: South: Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0; Hampshire 3, Surrey 0.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

### Oldham surprise Widnes with their commitment

By Keith Macklin

Widnes 19-0  
Oldham 16-0

Tony Barrow, the Oldham coach, has warned Wembley to prepare for an invasion by Oldham supporters during the last weekend in April. The town's football club are virtually assured of a Littlewoods Cup final appearance, on April 29, and yesterday, at the home of the champions, Widnes, the rugby league team produced the surprise of the season with a passionate display in the Silk Cup Challenge Cup quarter-final, which knocked all the heat out of the illustrious home side.

Oldham, the second division team, who will next year return to the top flight, surprised everyone including their own supporters by the certainty and conviction of their victory. In the first half, against a fierce wind, they conceded two early tries to David Davies, but then pinned Widnes on their own line, and went ahead shortly before half-time when Cogger, Clark and Newton carved out an opening for Davies, who ran under the posts. Platt added the goal and at half-time it was 8-4 to Oldham.

Widnes fought furiously in the second half to retrieve the position and it was Oldham's turn to defend. Davies did, tackling with such unyielding determination that there was no way through for Widnes, even for the flying Offiah, who received only two passes throughout the game, and was twice thwarted when kicks ahead were made dead by desperate but effective cover.

Time and again the energetic and skilful McKenzie opened up half chances for his Widnes colleagues, but always the Oldham ranks closed, sometimes only inches from the line.

Then, using the flowing wind, Oldham raised the siege, took play to the other end and with passing accuracy, a former Widnes player picked up by Oldham for a song, crashed over and Platt added the goal. Platt added another penalty and as the disillusioned home supporters left early, the Oldham supporters danced their delight at a surprise, but thoroughly deserved victory.

Oldham will have a semi-final hurdle to negotiate, but on this form they are capable of beating any semi-final opponents, including Wigan, the cup holders.

RESULTS: Widnes 19, Oldham 16; Widnes 19, Oldham 16; Widnes 19, Oldham 16; Widnes 19, Oldham 16.

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## Wigan set pace in march from west

For the second successive year the semi-finals of the Challenge Cup are monopolized by teams from the Pennines (Keith Macklin writes).

Wakefield Trinity and Bradford Northern, the two remaining Yorkshire sides, were defeated in the weekend's quarter-finals. Wigan's semi-final draw will feature Wigan, the favourites, Warrington, Oldham, the surprise team, and St Helens.

It seems that nothing can stop Wigan's relentless march to a third consecutive Wembley final. Wakefield Trinity did their best at Belle Vue, and at one stage in the first half led 10-6, but their hopes disappeared just before half-time when their inspiration, the veteran Australian loose forward Ray Price, was carried off with a back injury.

Warrington just had the edge in a muddy slog against Bradford Northern at Odsal. They should have had more than the one try scored by Jackson, and when Gill and Cordle scored tries for Northern, Hobbs could have levelled the tie with a conversion from Cordle's touchline. But he missed, and Turner's four successful kicks were a key to Warrington's 12-10 win.

Wigan led 12-10 at half-time, and despite a spirited second half display by Trinity, who had two tries disallowed, eventually took command, with Hamley and Edwards scoring tries to add to the first half efforts from Edwards and Iro. Lydon kicked five goals. Kelly, first Price scored tries for Wakefield and Mark Conway kicked three goals.

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